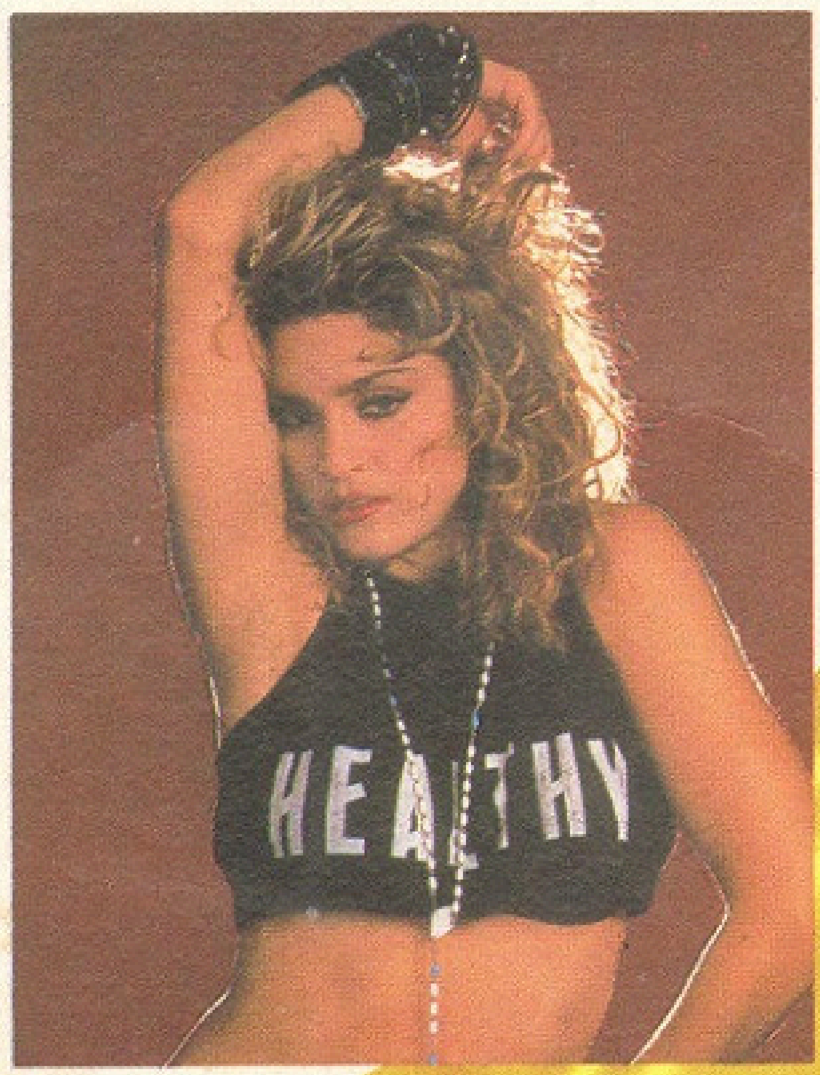






THE SMASH HITS COLLECTION





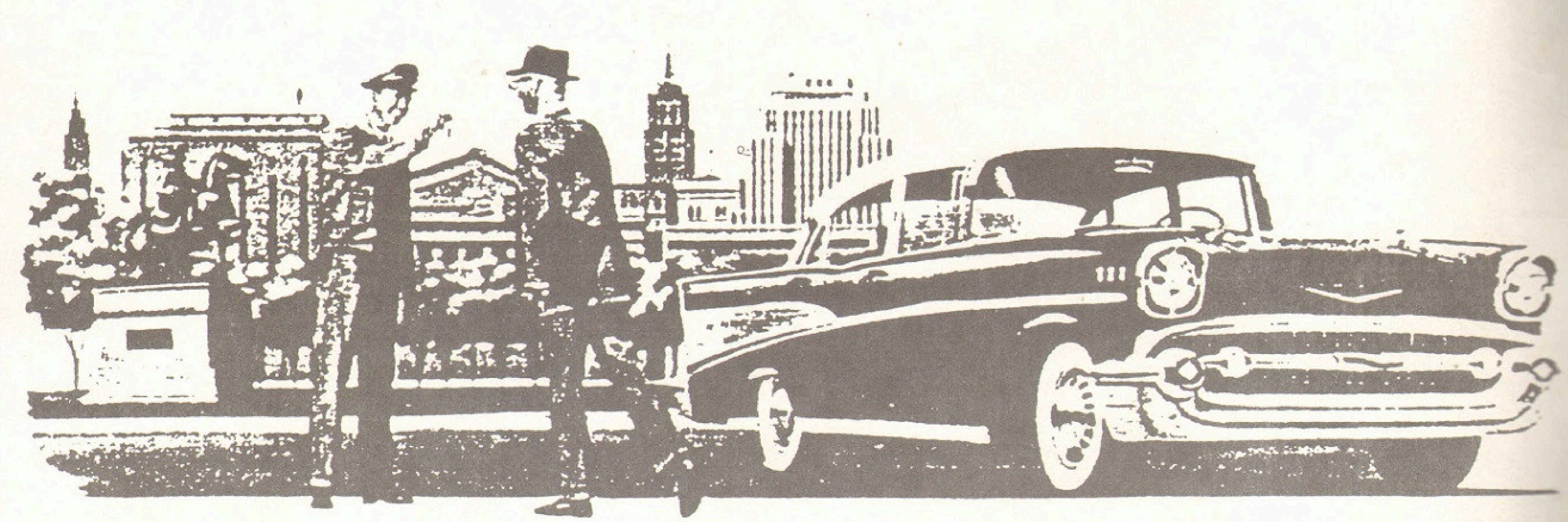
86

FIGURINE PANINI

Welcome to the brand new, best ever *Smash Hits* Sticker Collection: billions of little bits of shiny paper with brilliant full colour pictures of incredibly famous and "dishy" pop stars on one side, lots of very interesting facts about them on the other side. There's 180 stickers in all, and they're available from most good newsagents at just 20p for a pack of five. So you can buy them, swop them and trade them with your friends. And if you can't persuade your best mate to part with two Billy Idols and three Madonnas for one slightly torn sticker of the bloke from Big Country, you can always write to **Panini Stickers** and order the stickers you need. (Full details are on the inside of the back cover).

Right. On yer marks. Get set . . . go!

THE SMASH HITS COLLECTION 86



All Photos from LONDON FEATURES INTERNATIONAL except where stated.

DEPECHE MODE



■ **Depeche Mode** Formed in Basildon, Essex, by Andy Fletcher, Martin Gore and Vince Clarke – singer Dave Gahan joined soon after. Took name Depeche Mode from a French fashion magazine; started visiting New Romantic clubs like Blitz in London. Second single, "New Life" gave them first hit. Main songwriter Vince Clarke unhappy with pressure of success, left (to form Yazoo, The Assembly and now Erasure) so Martin Gore took over writing role, Alan Wilder was roped in and the hits continued: 14 in a row so far. Now work heavily with computers and "sampling" sounds. Self-confessed workaholics, they remain remarkably unaffected by success.

DAVE GAHAN



■ **Dave Gahan** Born 9/5/62. On stage famous for sexy bum wiggles; off stage he enjoys fishing. Had a bad car crash in 1984 – "I thought 'that's it, it's over'" – but recovered completely and recently married his longtime girlfriend Jo. "I just got up one morning and asked her to marry me, and she said, 'Yeah, alright'."

ALAN WILDER



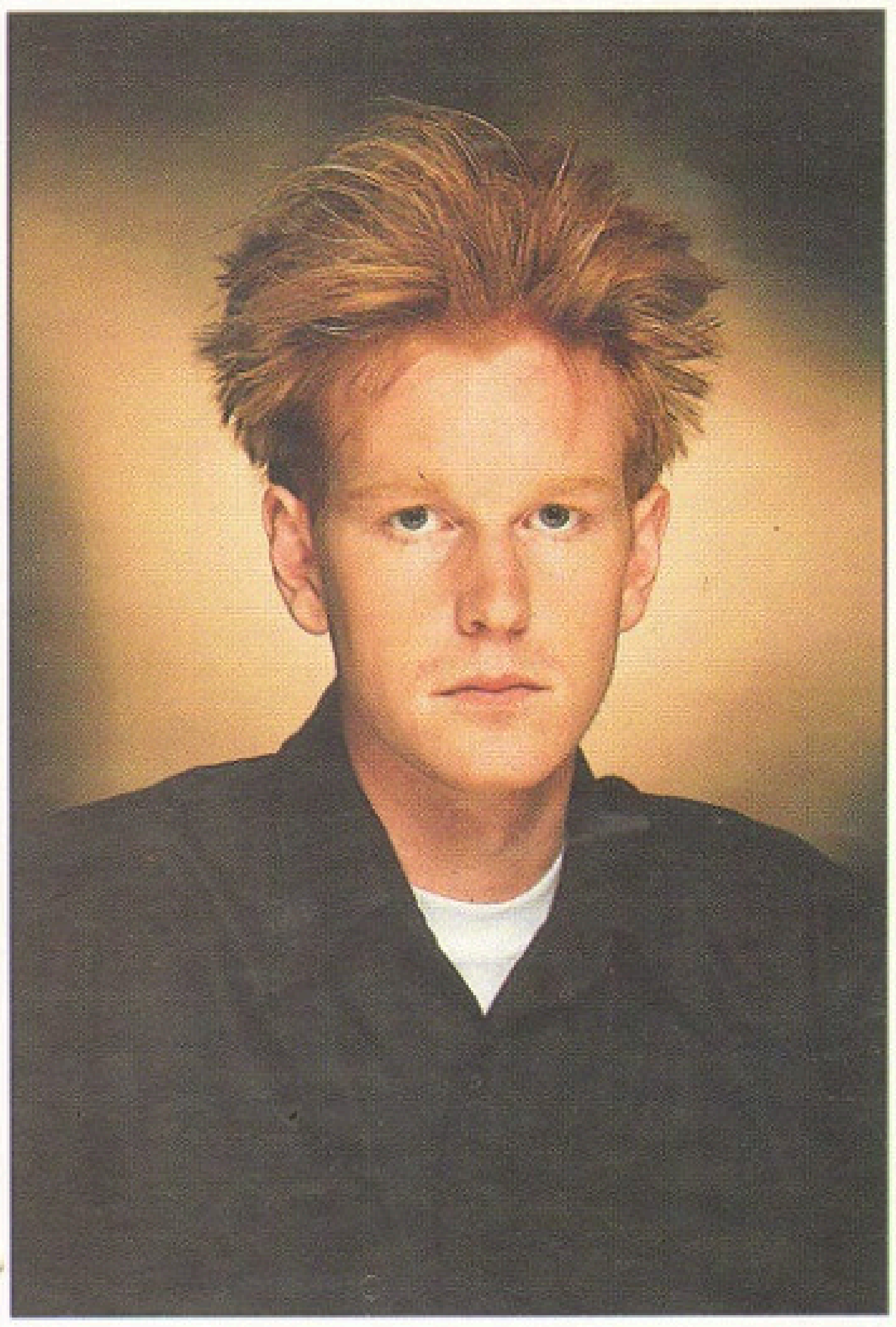
■ **Alan Wilder** Born 1/6/59. Previously in pop/rock band The Hitmen. Comes from London, not Basildon, and is reputedly the most suave and sophisticated member. Keen photographer. Thinks the band work too hard – "I think we're too scared of being forgotten", has nightmares about his equipment collapsing and says "I don't know who I am most of the time".

MARTIN GORE



■ **Martin Gore** Born 23/7/61. Former bank clerk. Main songwriter ("We feel fairly dependent on him," admits Dave). Has German girlfriend Christina, is fairly shy but likes wearing women's clothing. "I find male dress very boring. Obviously I wouldn't go shopping in a dress but if I go out to a club I usually wear one. Most girls I know seem to prefer effeminate boys."

ANDY FLETCHER

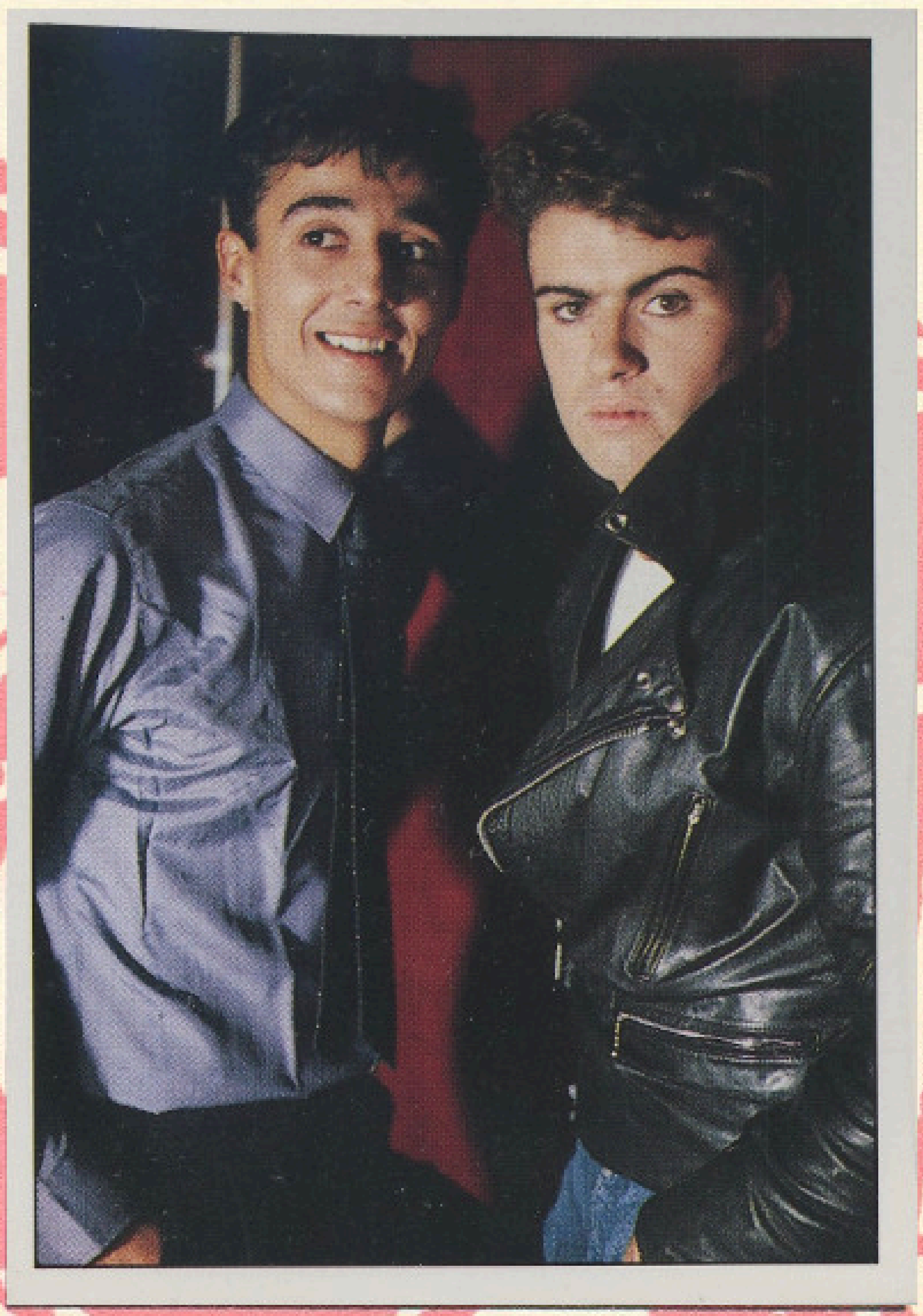


■ **Andy Fletcher** Born 8/7/61. Went to school with Alison Moyet. Former insurance clerk. Most down to earth of group, has just moved down to London into "a cardboard box with lots of plants". Looks like a cheeky schoolboy with his glasses on but, according to the others, is "the backbone of Depeche Mode. He keeps us together."

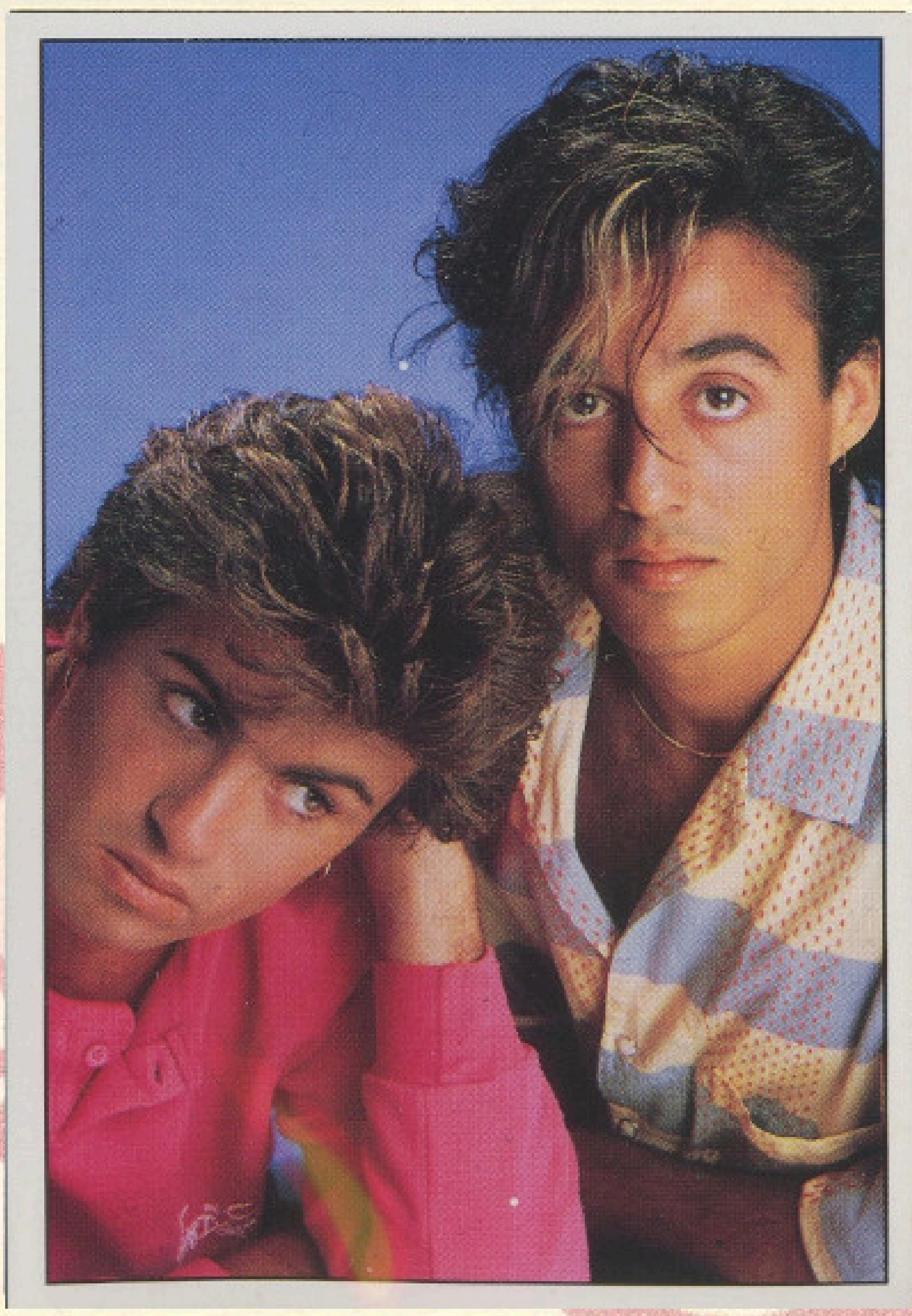
WHAM!



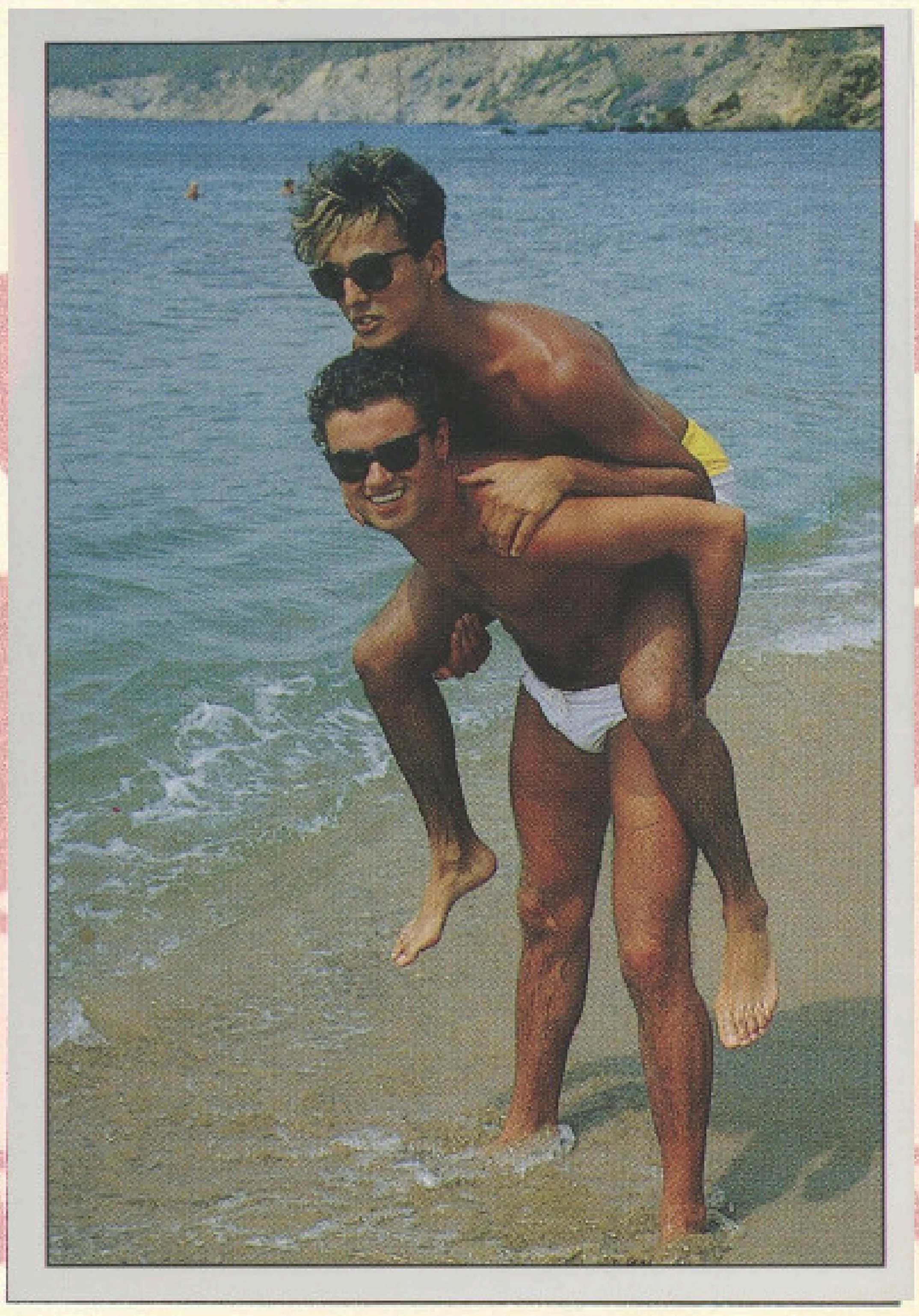
Wham! Two North London school chums – George (the shy one) and Andrew (the outgoing one) formed their first group, a ska band called The Executives, in 1980. Two years later, they recruited two backing singers – Shirley Holliman (an ex-girlfriend of Andrew's) and D. C. Lee (a model turned session singer), renamed themselves Wham! and got a recording contract on the strength of a £20 demo.



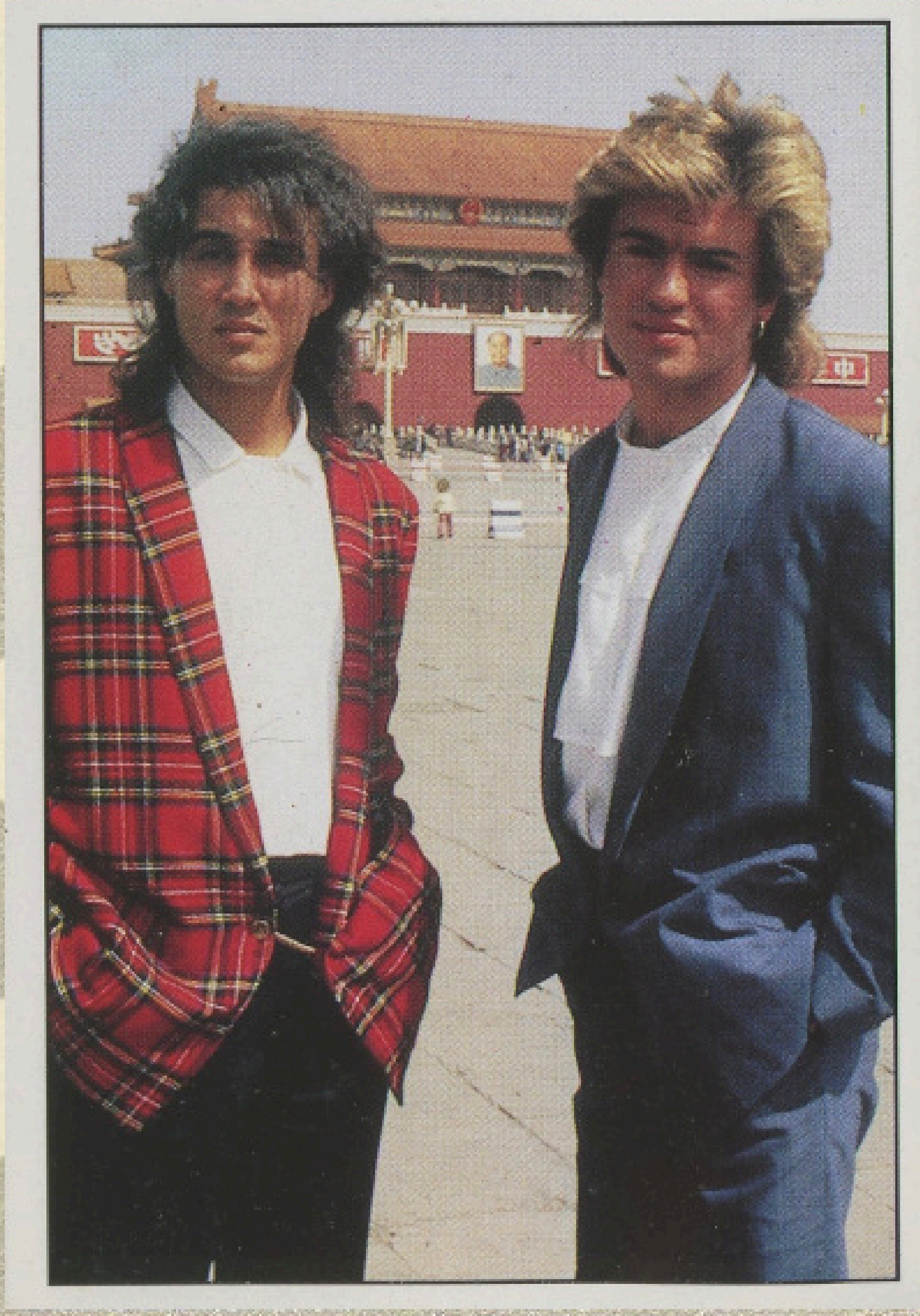
Wham! Using George Michael's idea of a non-funk lyric with a funk riff, "Wham! Rap" was born but went largely unnoticed. It wasn't until "Young Guns (Go For It)" zoomed into the Top 10 after a lucky break on *Top Of The Pops* that Wham! had their first hit, followed swiftly by a remixed "Wham! Rap" and "Bad Boys".



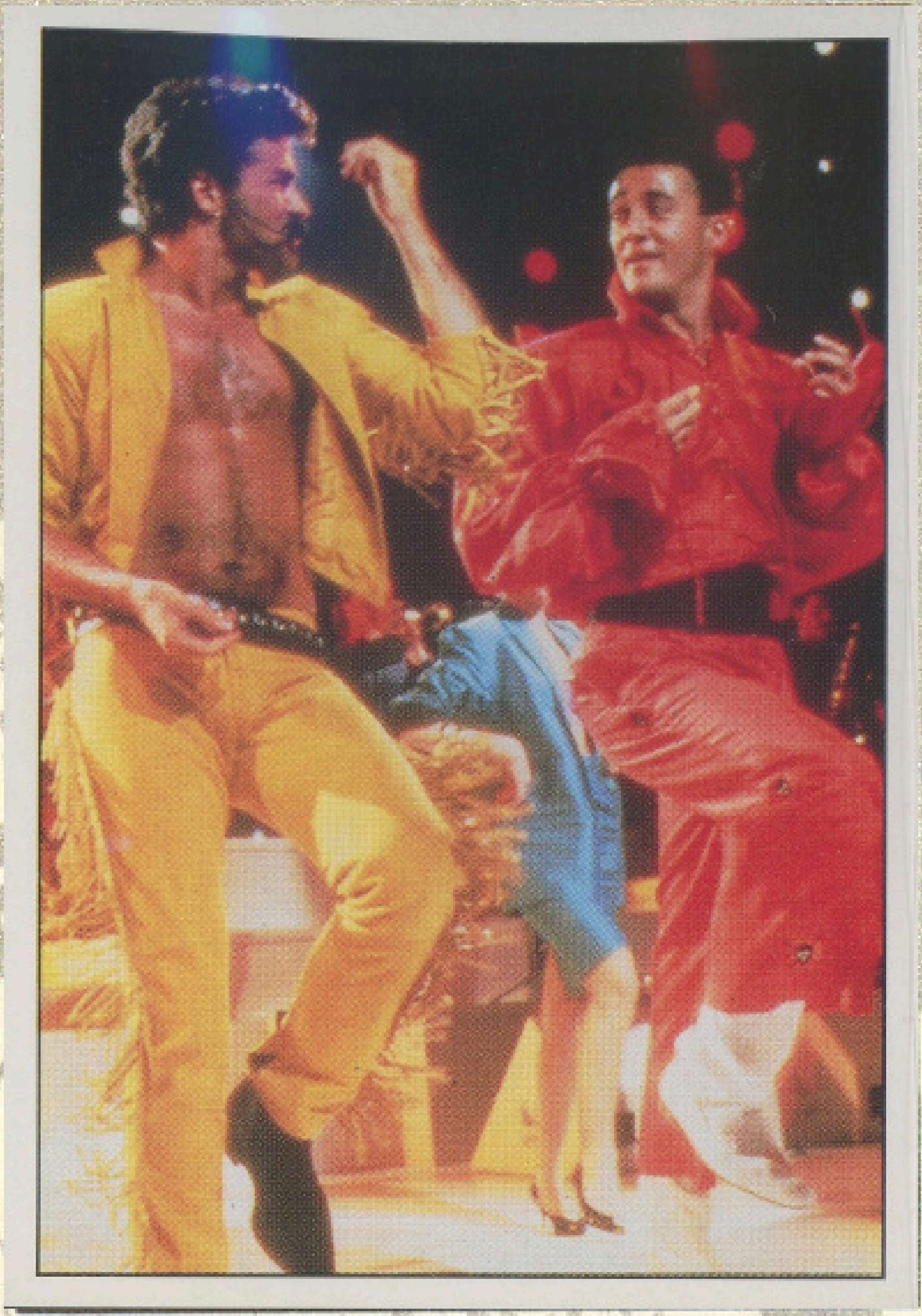
Wham! Leaving their "pathetic" rebellious teenager image behind, Wham! moved on to the more sophisticated jet-setting style for "Club Tropicana" and their album, modestly entitled "Fantastic". They also did their first tour, deliberately annoying many with the notorious shuttlecocks, and left Innervision for CBS after rows over how little they were actually earning from their hits.



Wham! After a break in which they acquired even deeper tans, Wham! returned with "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go", their first No. 1 in May 1984, followed by George's solo hit "Careless Whisper" (written by Andrew and George). Their second album "Make It Big" rounded off a triumphant year, with only Band Aid keeping "Last Christmas" off the top – and George even sang on that!



■ **Wham!** April '85 saw Wham! become first Western group to tour China (10 days in April) after 10 months of negotiations and strict vetting (no "sexy" hip-wiggling for George). Cultural gap proved almost impossible to overcome but, according to George, "it did seem there was a desire to cross that bridge and maybe Wham! was just the first couple of bricks towards that."



■ **Wham!** Apart from problems with tabloid press (George: "they're just digging for dirt and that's all. It's like being bullied"), Wham! spent much of '85 playing to huge audiences but remaining sensible. George: "We understand there's nothing special about us – but I *am* very confident about my songwriting. It's that base that's seen us through, so you don't *need* to pretend to be anything you're not."

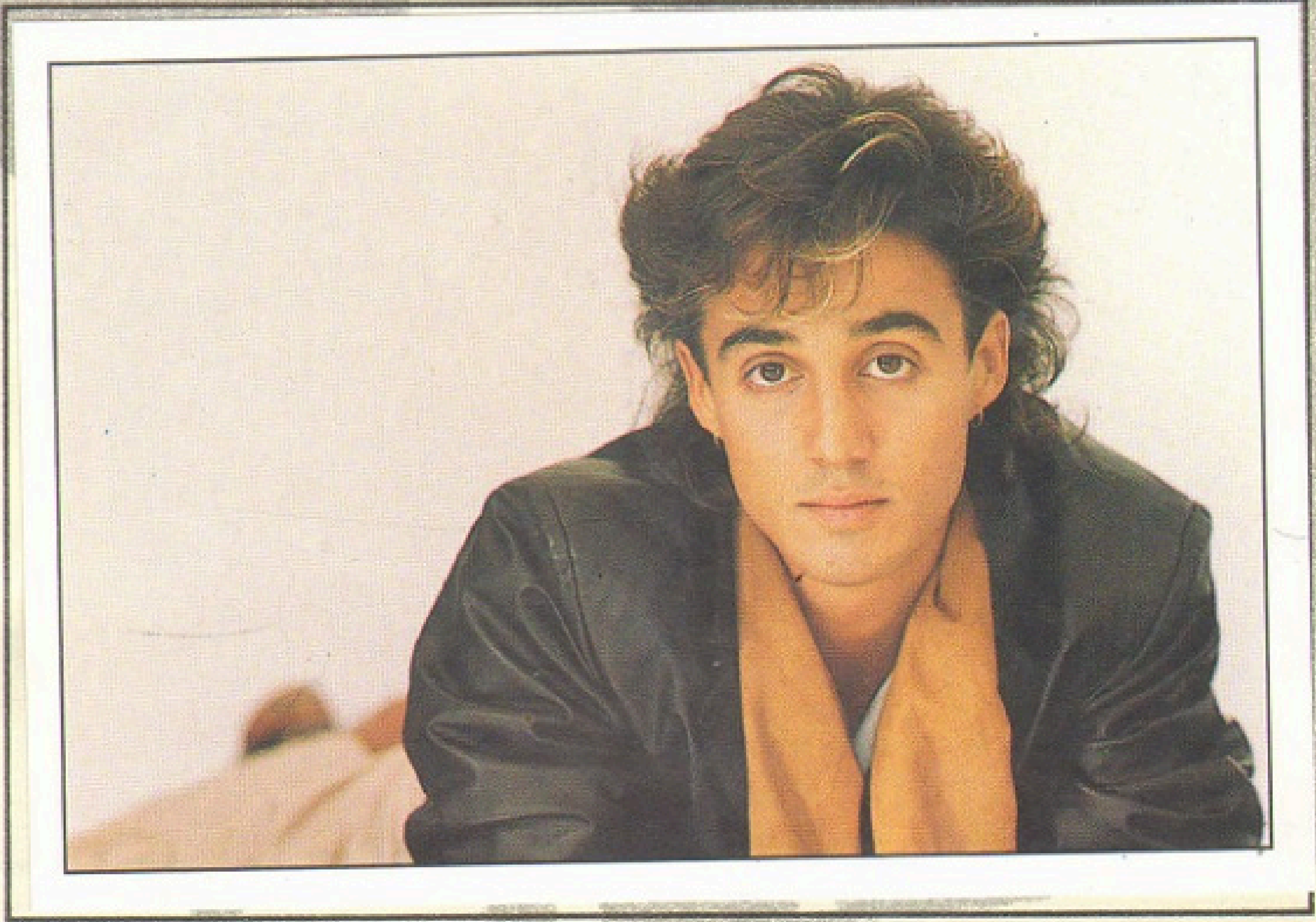
WHAM!

GEORGE MICHAEL



■ **George Michael** Born George Michael Panayatiou, 25/6/63. Generally accepted as the musical brains in Wham! In '85, grew dodgy beard, received Ivor Novello award for songwriting from Elton John (promptly bursting into tears) and attempted to lose his whiter-than-white "Richard Clayderman of pop" image by injecting more sex into his writing.

ANDREW RIDGELEY



■ **Andrew Ridgeley** Born 26/1/63. Portrayed by tabloids as car-crashing, womanising drunk; Andrew claims he only does what everyone else does, but he gets photographed doing it. As for his musical contribution to Wham!, he says: "George has the greater talent so it's going to overshadow mine whatever. I can sing but not as well as him, so what's the point?"

PRINCE



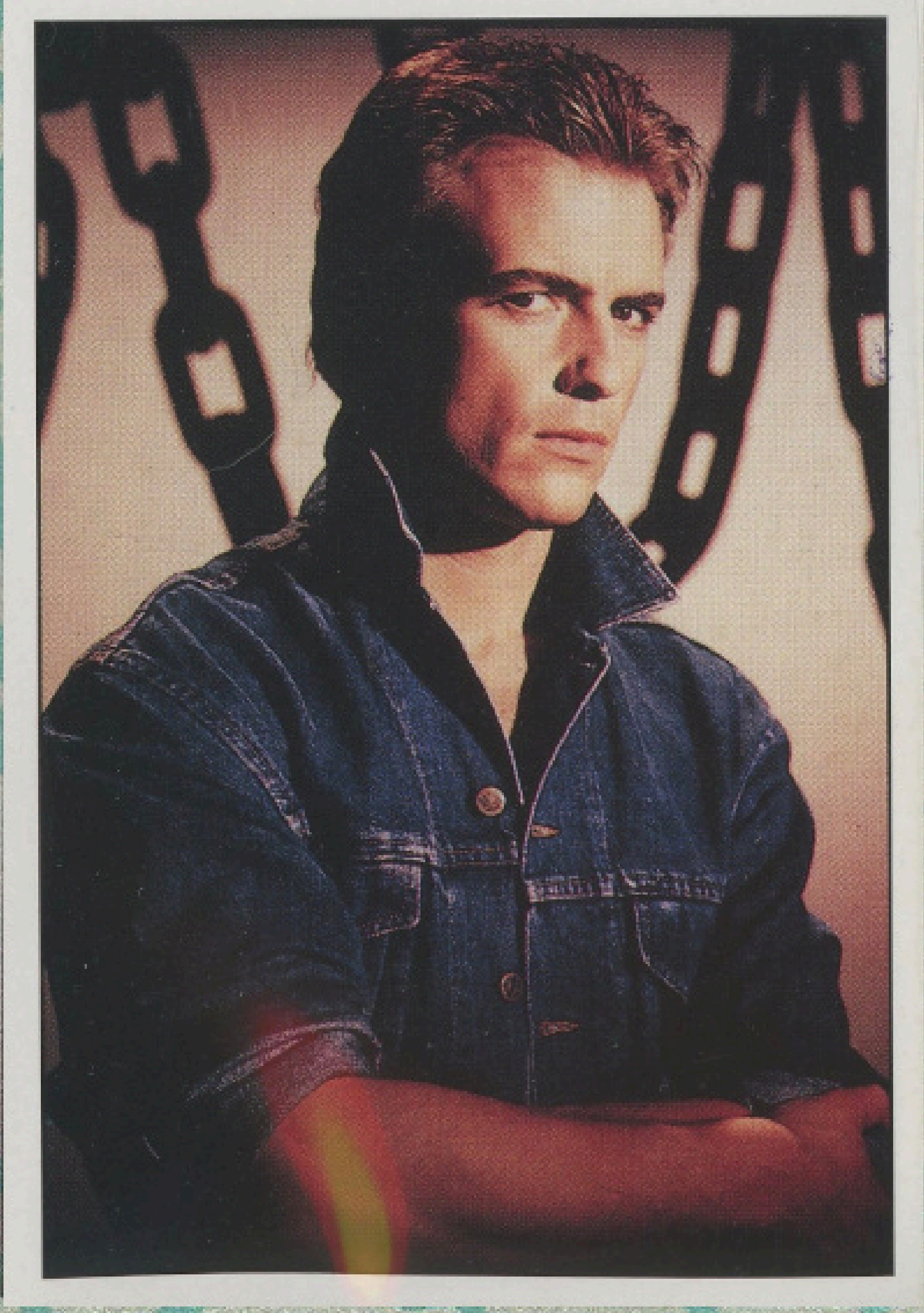
■ **Prince** Born Prince Nelson Rogers 7/6/60 in Minneapolis, U.S.A. Fronted first band, Champagne, aged 12. Found success with steamy songs and outrageous stage shows, then international stardom with *Purple Rain* film and soundtrack. Reclusive and religious, Prince composes, arranges and produces all his music. He's also worked with Sheila E., The Time, Vanity 6, The Family and Sheena Easton.

COCTEAU TWINS



■ **Cocteau Twins** "Alternative" chart-toppers who avoid publicity, Liz Frazer, Robin Guthrie and Simon Raymonde have been described as "nouveau hippies" because of their swirly, ethereal music and mysterious lyrics. There are "no handles on the music, nothing to grasp on to," they explain, but claim they don't want to be weird: "we just want to be DAMN GOOD!"

GO WEST



PETER COX

■ **Peter Cox** born 17/11/55. Took demo tapes of his singing to Richard six years ago; Richard was "so knocked out" he left his "dodgy local band" to form the duo. The less outgoing of the pair, Peter is solid, reserved "and not at all pretentious". Admits they sometimes have blazing rows – "but within one or two hours the mood changes."

RICHARD DRUMMIE

■ **Richard Drummie** born 20/3/59. Like Peter, comes from Twickenham; a capable musician "though not a virtuoso", according to Peter. The more impulsive of the pair, he's the one who tends to get things done – "he jumps in at the deep end and worries about the consequences later." Fashion conscious, and says he likes "pretentious music".





PETER ASHWORTH

SCRITTI POLITTI

■ **Scritti Politti** Formerly determinedly independent, mainman Green Gartside has now gone to the other extreme with new American sidekicks Fred Maher and David Gamson, a now more direct black music approach and superbly designed sleeves. Influenced in his time by punk, reggae and vintage soul, he now makes intricately crafted and immaculately produced LPs like "Cupid And Psyche '85".

A-HA



CHALKIE DAVIES

■ **A-HA** Mags and Pål first became interested in music at the age of 10, when they were next door neighbours; they've had many groups since then. In 1983 they invited Morten – who'd been "too shy to approach them" – to join, and headed for England, releasing "Take On Me" twice with no success. But on the third try – with the help of their innovative "half-animated" video – they zoomed to No. 2 in the British charts. These days, they're brimming with confidence; their modest ambition is "to beat every band at what they're best at". As Mags puts it: "Ambitions are free, so why hold back on them?"

MORTEN HARKET



CHALKIE DAVIES

■ **Morten Harket** Born 14/9/59 in Konigsberg, Norway. Worked in a mental ward (where he met Mags) and studied theology for a year: "I believe in God and go to church when I can." Thoughtful and polite, spends his spare time climbing trees ("it's good exercise") and growing orchids. Dislikes alcohol: "I just hate that hazy feeling – I can't concentrate."

MAGS



CHALKIE DAVIES

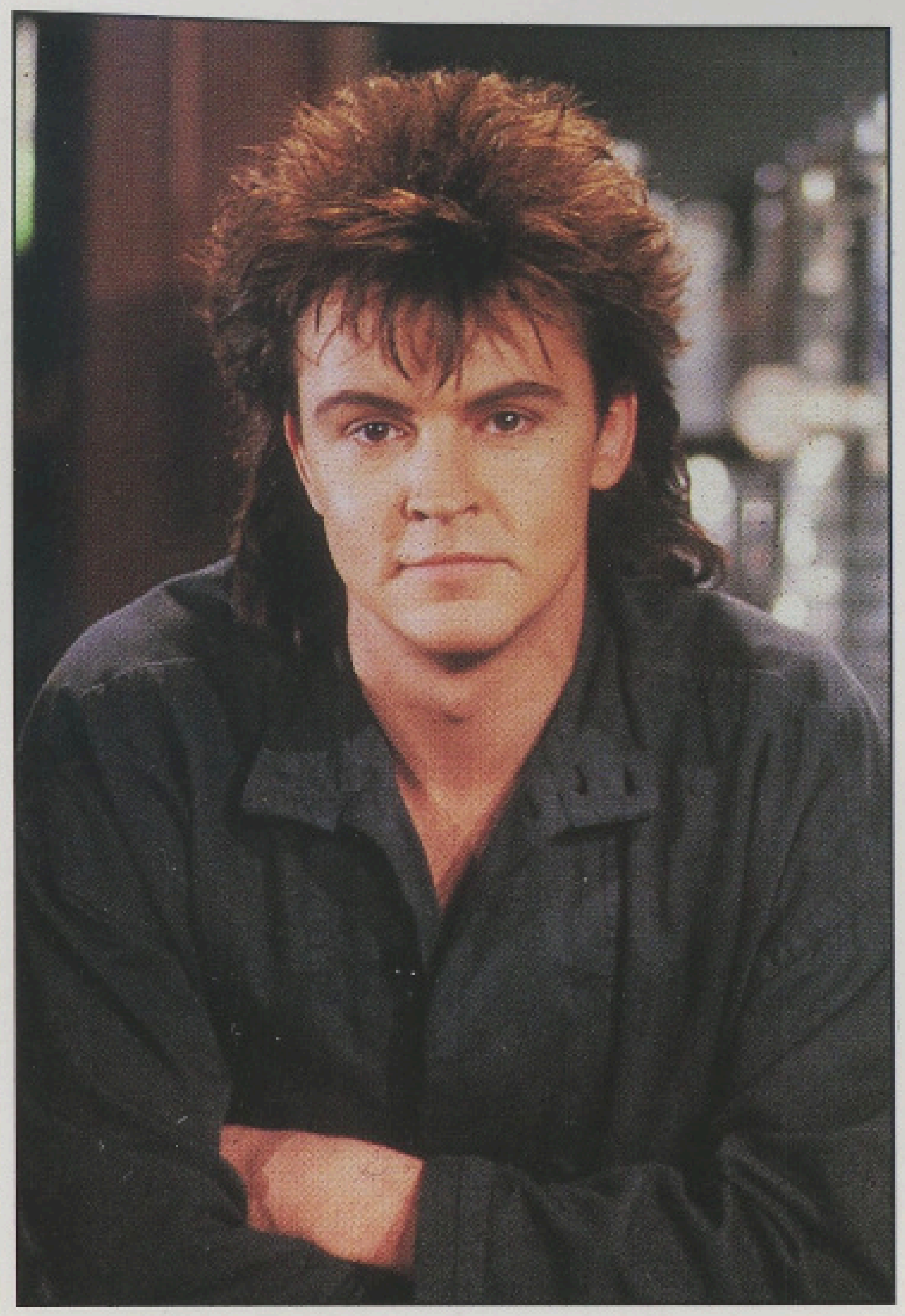
■ **Mags Furuholmen** Born 1/11/62 in Oslo, Norway – "It's a pretty good place to grow up". Previous jobs include working in an arts centre and a mental ward – "At the beginning it was so distressing I couldn't help." The extrovert of the group, he's full of confidence: "I always thought we'd come through in the end."

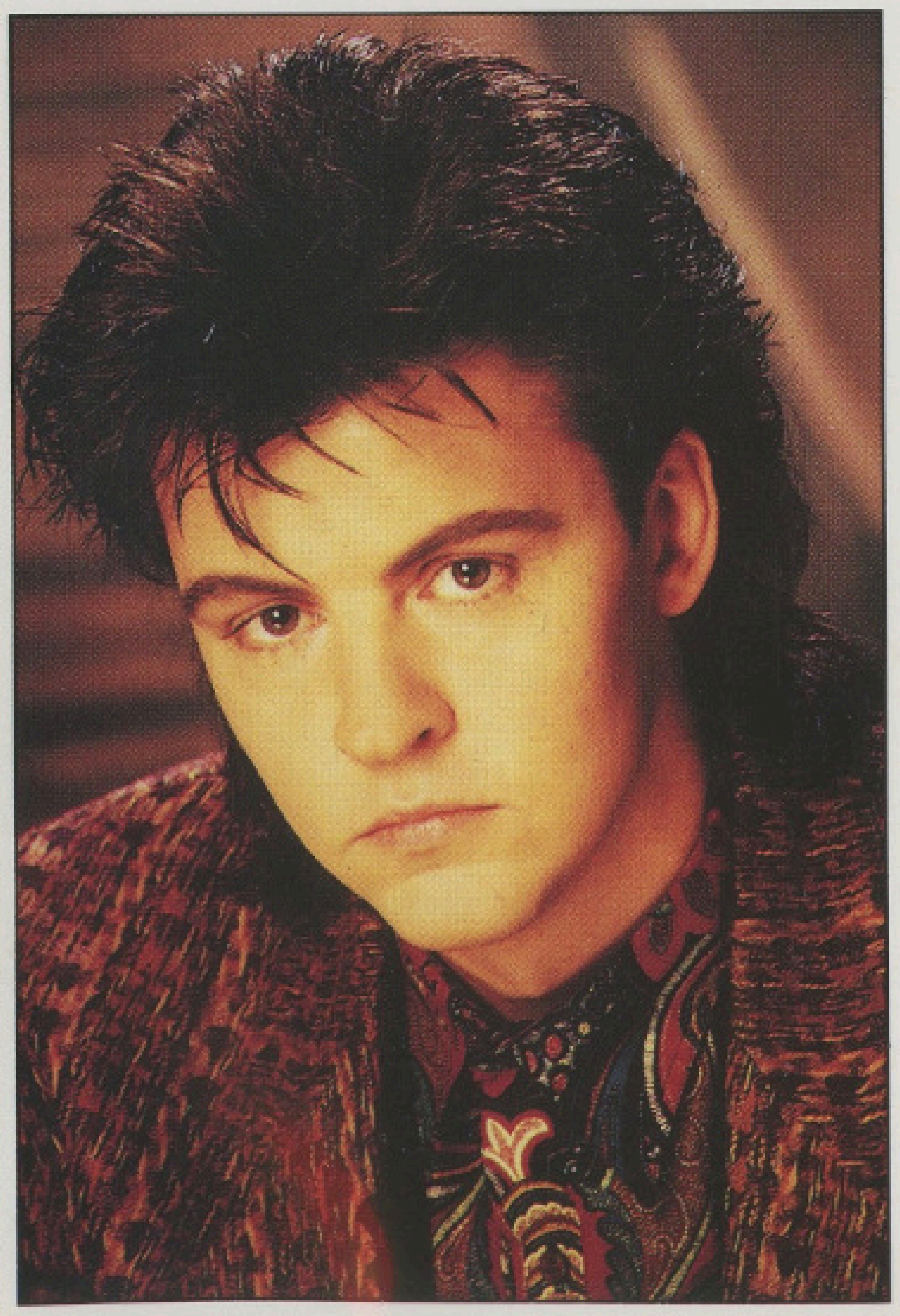
PAL WAAKTAAR



CHALKIE DAVIES

■ **Pål Waaktaar** Born 6/9/61 in Oslo, Norway. Had various jobs – putting pills into boxes, scrubbing floors in factories and selling subway tickets – but lost them for "not being responsible". The quietest member of the group, he's responsible for most of the music. Moody, and the anxious type: "*Someone's* got to do the worrying."





PAUL YOUNG

Paul Young Born 17/1/56 in Luton. Began his musical career playing in local bands while doing an apprenticeship at Vauxhall Motors (where he worked with his dad Tony). Left work to join one hit wonder group, Streetband, whose novelty hit "Toast" has been the "bane of my life". On his recent tour of the States (where "Toast" has just been released) the Americans, much to Paul's disgust, threw pieces of toast on stage – "all I wanted to do was kick it back in their faces." From Streetband he fronted brassy sould band The Q-Tips then finally found success alone in 1983 with Marvin Gaye's "Wherever I Lay My Hat". Since then there's been no looking back. Very much the down-to-earth pop star and like many others he's currently dating a model. Has a passion for fast cars and is given to wearing just a wrist watch and a dash of Chanel in bed.

ELTON JOHN

PET SHOP BOYS

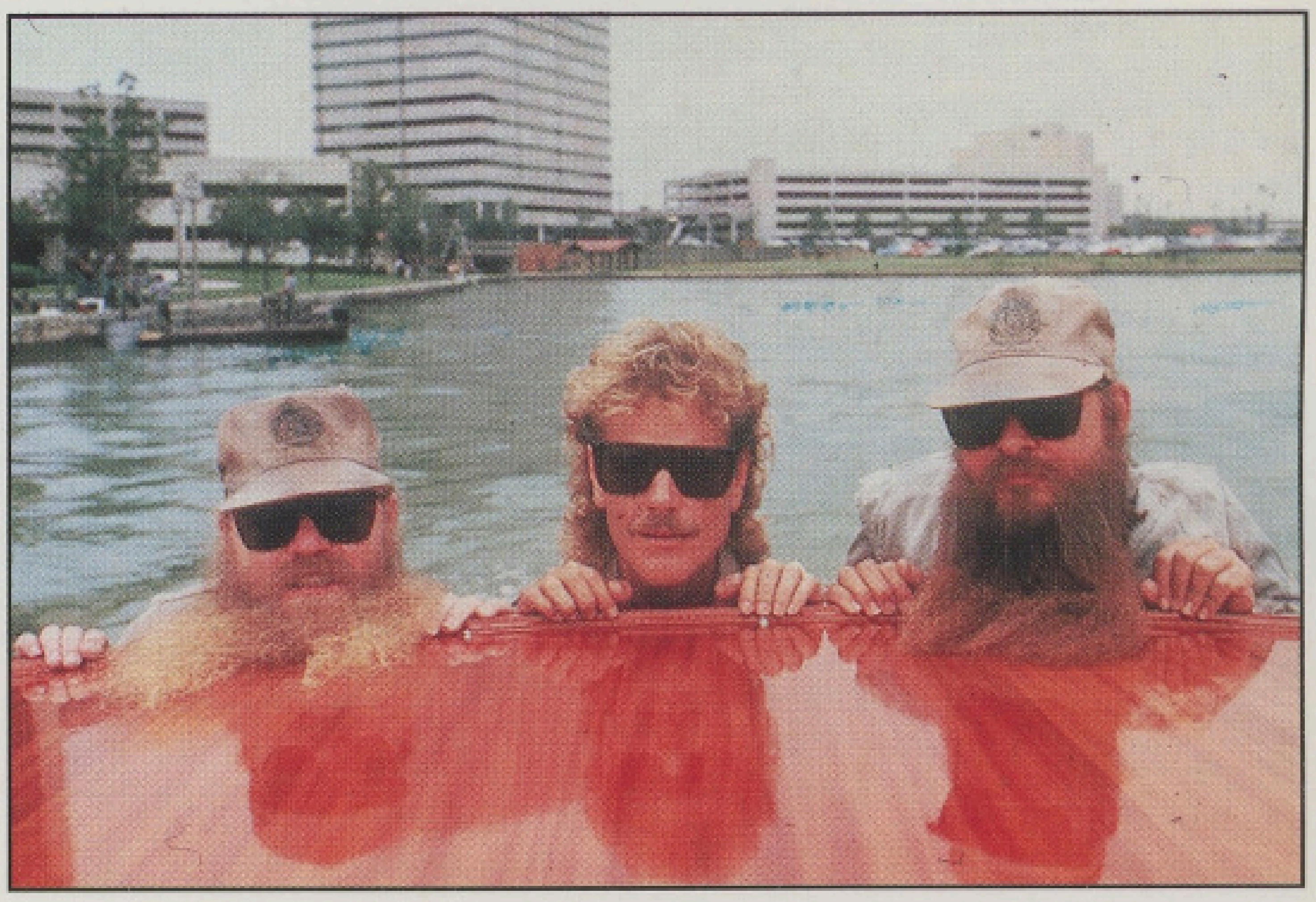
Pet Shop Boys Vocalist Neil Tennant and keyboards player Chris Lowe first met in a hi-fi shop in 1981. Inspired by obscure Italian disco records. Neil (an ex-*Smash Hits* writer) has "a pathetic devotion to Gary Numan"; Chris (an ex-architect who "once built a staircase in Milton Keynes") used to pretend Tchaikovsky could compose through him.



EMI/ERIC WATSON



Elton John Born Reginald Dwight, 25/3/47. One of Princess Diana's favourites, Elton is a colourful, tongue-in-cheek megastar on stage and the hardworking chairman of Watford FC off it. Keeps on writing and recording hits, and last year shared a mike with Millie Jackson and George Michael, among others.



ZZ TOP

ZZ Top Texas trio (Billy Gibbons, Dusty Hill and non-bearded Frank Beard) who've been together for 15 years, playing humorous brand of blues-based rock. Mainly successful through albums and touring (sometimes with live buffalo) until 1983 album "Eliminator" gave them three hit singles. Trademarks are outrageously long beards and Billy Gibbons' red ZZ Top custom car.


RETNA/ANDY FREEBERG

TEARS FOR FEARS

■ **Tears For Fears** Formed by Roland Orzabal and Curt Smith after they dissolved previous group, ska band Graduate. Name inspired by Arthur Janov's *The Primal Scream*, a book advocating the free expression of emotions – a theme which influenced much of their first LP, "The Hurting". Subsequently lost direction but returned with "much tougher, more mature" but still melodic and tasteful second LP, "Songs From The Big Chair" (title taken from film *Sybil* about girl with 16 personalities who only feels safe in her analyst's big chair). Singles "Shout" and "Everybody Wants To Rule The World" (written deliberately to "break" America) made them international megastars.

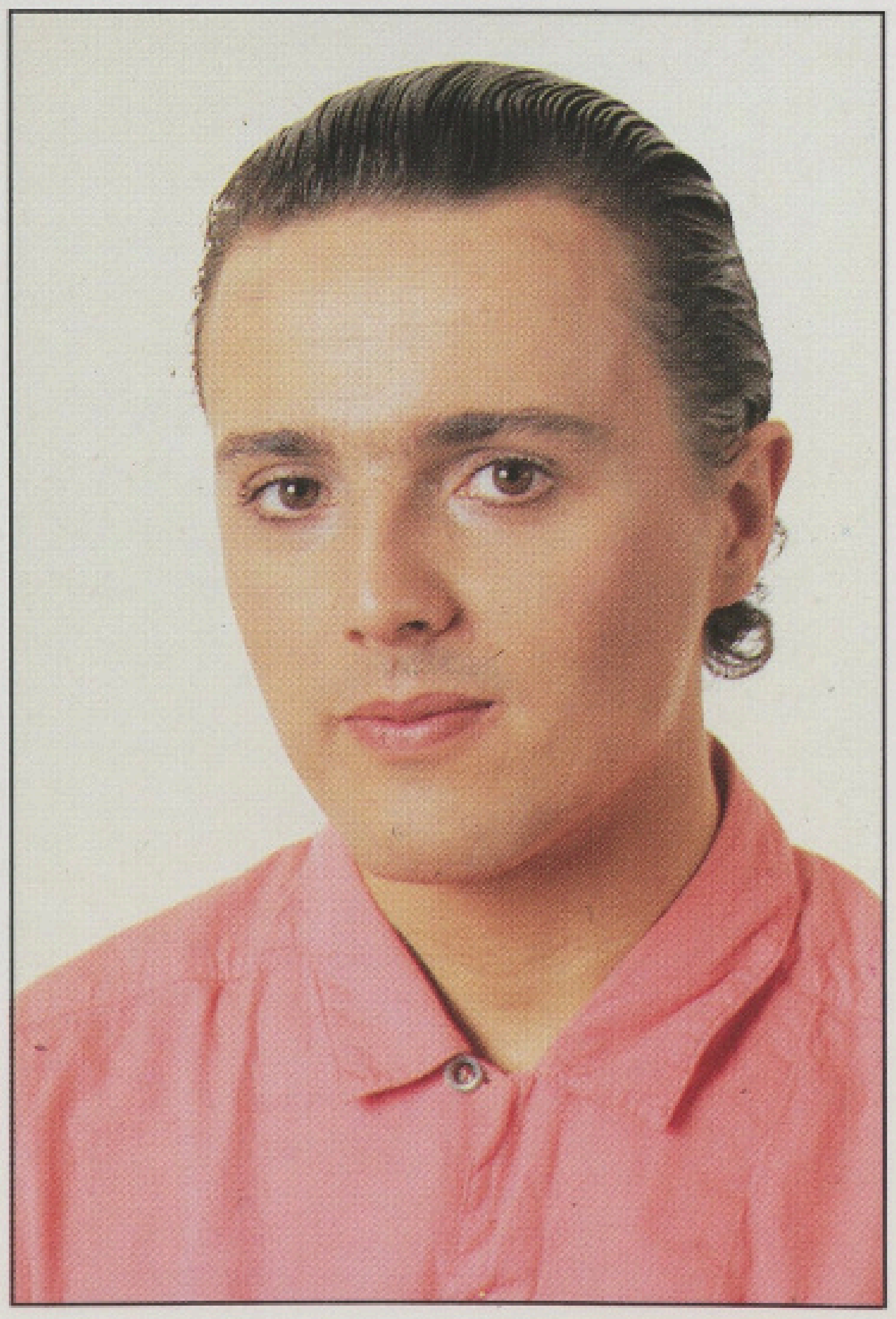

RETNA/ANDY FREEBERG

ROLAND ORZABAL

■ **Roland Orzabal** Full name Roland Jaime Orzabal de la Quintana (father French, mother Basque Spanish), born 22/8/61. Unhappy childhood relationship with father resulted in recent front page slanging match. Stubborn, sarcastic and very funny. Married to Caroline, has a cat called Zero Algebra Waldorf Churchill and reckons it would be more dignified to be into "art galleries or antiques".

CURT SMITH

■ **Curt Smith** Born 24/6/61. Frequently in trouble as tearaway teenager but has since matured. Met Roland aged 13 and impressed him by singing a Blue Oyster Cult (American '70s heavy mystic group) song. Main hobby cars (banned from driving in 1984 after drunk driving accident). Married to Lynne and has five cats: Treasure, Garp, Ben, Charlie and Emmy.


RETNA/ANDY FREEBERG



NEW ORDER

■ **New Order** When Ian Curtis, singer with Joy Division, committed suicide in 1980, the remaining members – Bernard Sumner, Stephen Morris and Peter Hook – drafted in Gillian Gilbert, and New Order were born. Best known for their million-selling 12" single "Blue Monday", they remain doggedly independent with an undeserved "dark, inaccessible image" – "we're just four normal everyday human beings."

UB40



■ **UB40** Honest, unfashionable reggae band from Birmingham. Took name from unemployment benefit card but now say it's like "a rock around our necks". First single, "Food For Thought"/"King", biggest ever hit without major record company backing. Steady but unspectacular career boosted in 1983 by "Labour Of Love", celebration of the reggae/ska music of their youth, giving them a No. 1 with "Red Red Wine". At same time sax player Brian Travers masterminded brilliant black and white *Labour Of Love* film. Set up own label and studio (DEP International) in converted Birmingham bacon factory. Between them, fathers of 13 children.

ALI CAMPBELL



■ **Ali Campbell** Born 15/2/59. Founded UB40 with Earl Falconer and Jim Brown in 1978. The band's lead singer and heartthrob, though he reckons in his case "cute" means "ugly but interesting". Cocky, argumentative and a good actor (the real star of *Labour Of Love*), has girlfriend Bernadette and son Ali Jnr, and says, "I *hate* working . . . I'd rather be at home."

TINA TURNER



■ **Tina Turner** Born Ann Bullock 26/11/40. Former cotton picker in Tennessee, sang with guitarist husband Ike Turner before divorcing him after difficult marriage and working her own way to the top as raunchy purveyor of emotional classics. Followed movie debut as Acid Queen in *Tommy* with another queenly role in *Mad Max III*. Despite appearances, quiet and mild in person.

MARC ALMOND



■ **Marc Almond** Born 9/7/56. Formerly half of Soft Cell, he's now released three erratically brilliant solo albums with the help of his Mambas or Willing Sinners. A theatrical performer, he's also famous for his informal concerts to his intensely loyal black-clad "Gutterheart" fans. Has a bedroom like "a brothel" and a hall filled with stuffed tigers and ancient chastity belts.

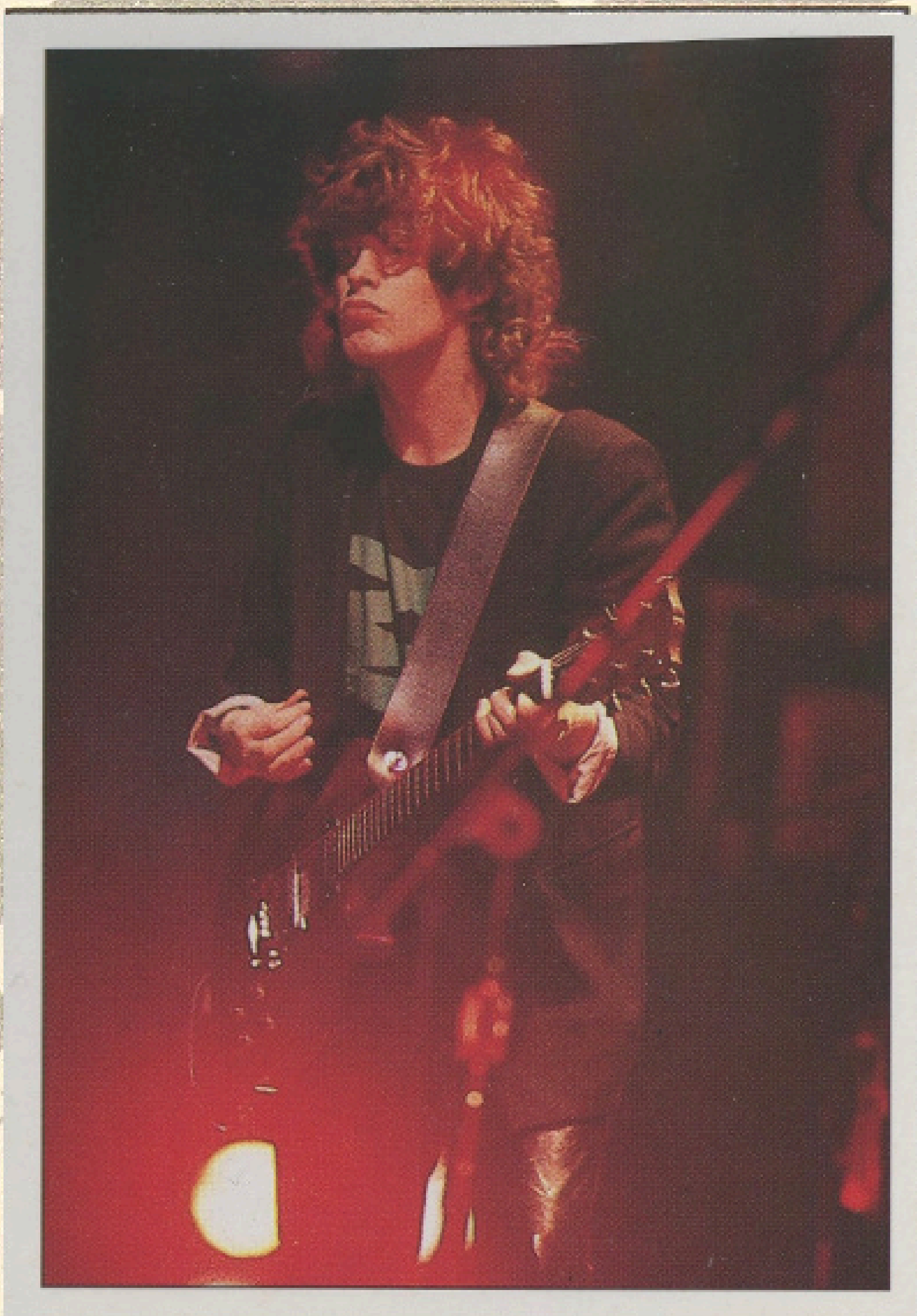
RETNA/W. McBRIDE

TALKING HEADS



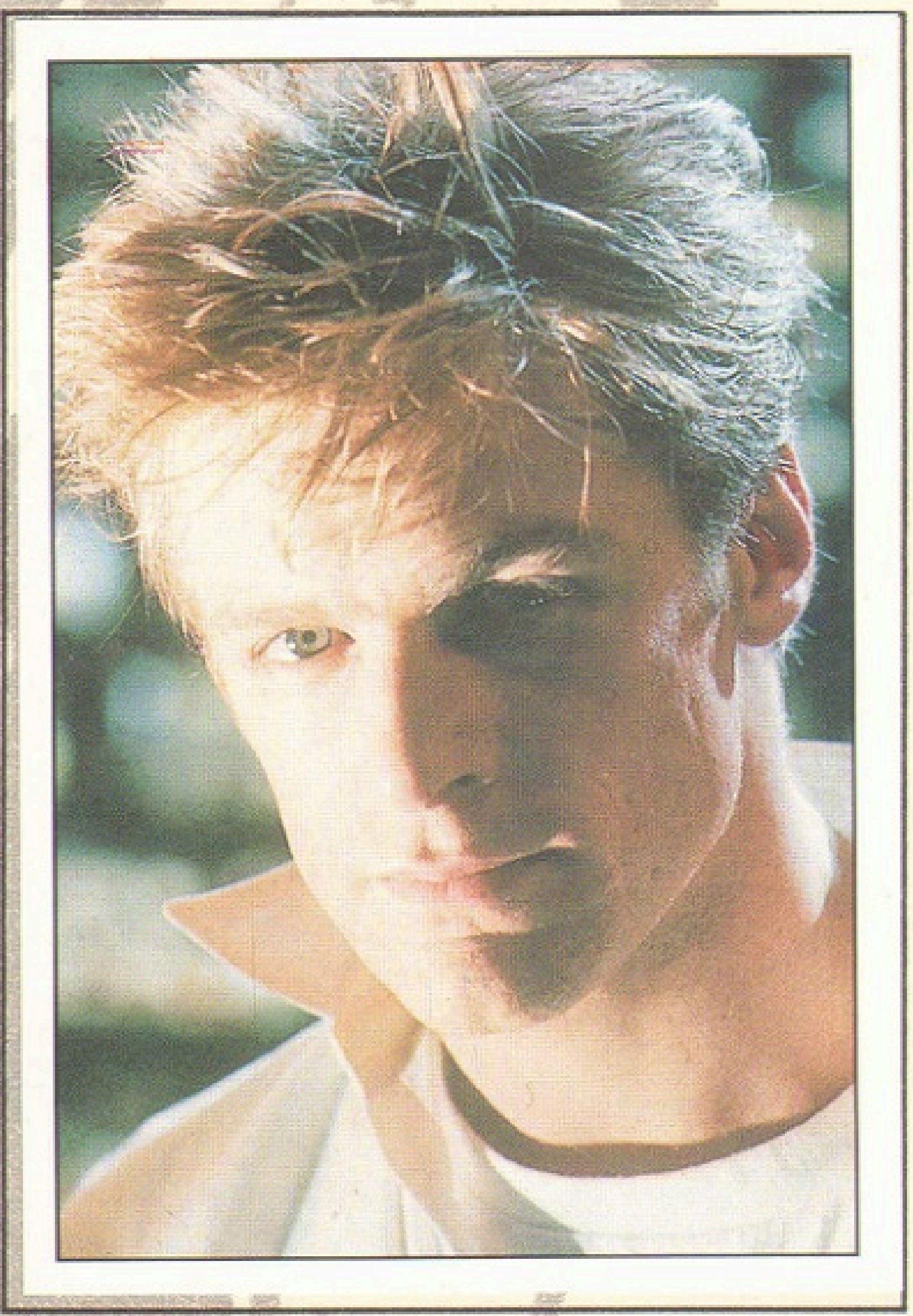
■ **Talking Heads** Eccentric singer and guitarist David Byrne met drummer Chris Frantz at art school; Tina Weymouth joined on bass and they became Talking Heads, adding guitarist Jerry Harrison soon after. Their strange, avant-garde but rhythmic songs and inventive videos have ensured trendy following but have also been very influential. Chris and Tina are married with son Robin.

THE WATERBOYS

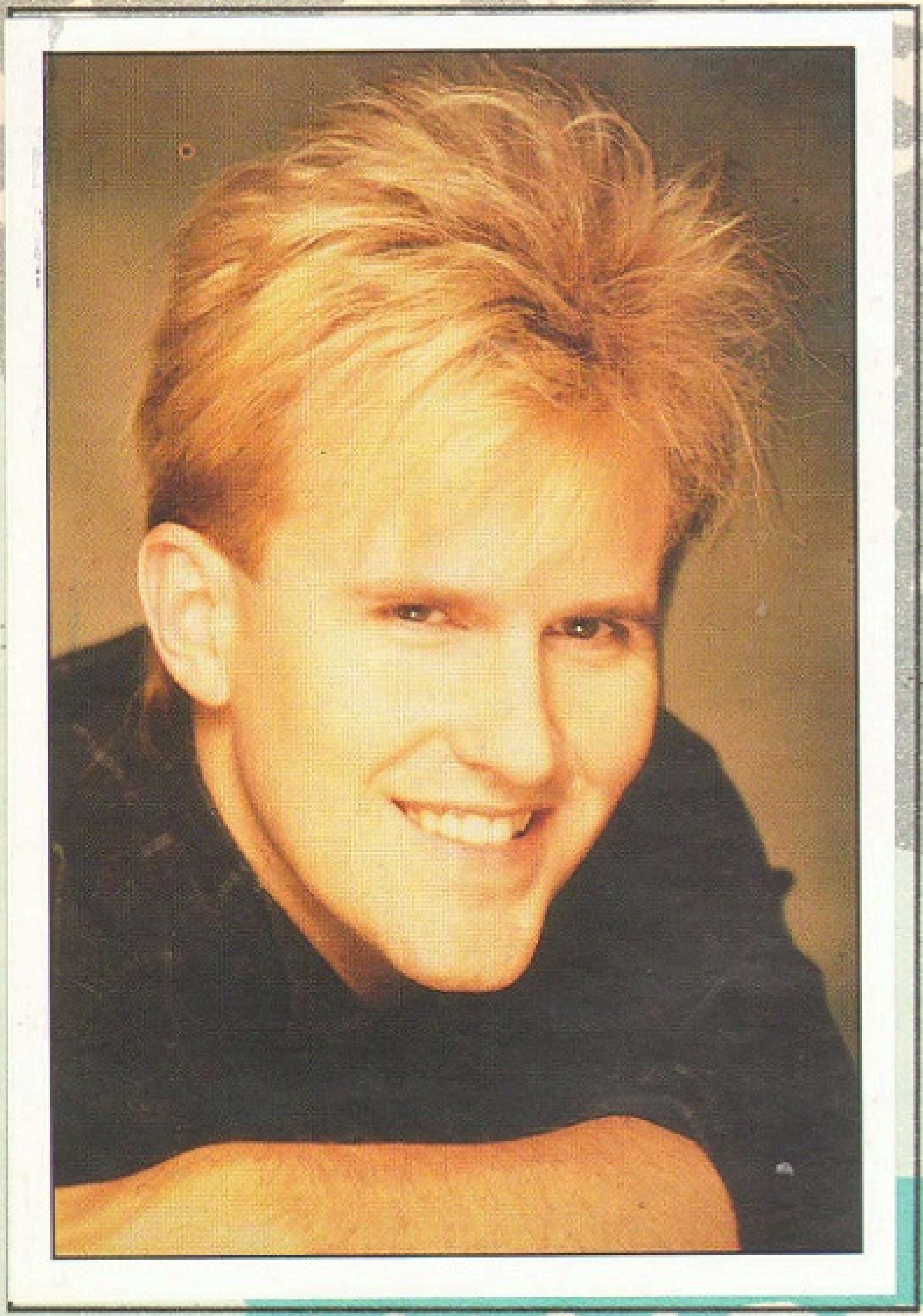


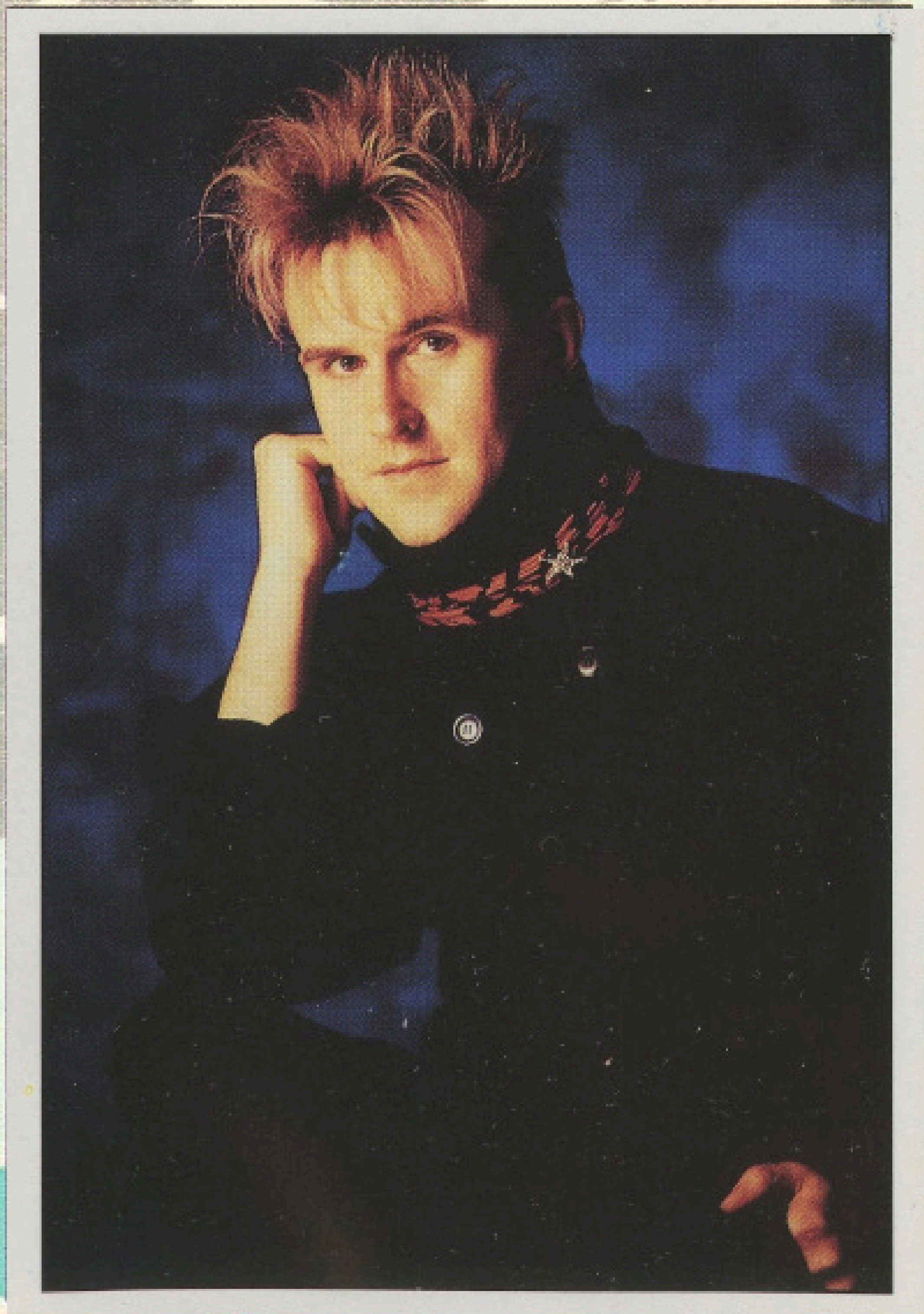
The Waterboys The Waterboys are basically Mike Scott, a mystical, sensitive singer/songwriter who writes deeply "symbolic" lyrics about rainbows, unicorns, scimitars, etc. Previously in loads of unsuccessful groups, spent two years "elastoplasting myself with cynicism; they were the worst times I've ever had" before scoring overdue hit with "The Whole Of The Moon".

BRYAN ADAMS



Bryan Adams Born 5/11/59 in Ontario, Canada. Parents are English but travelled widely as father in services. Bryan ignored family military tradition (he's a pacifist), opting to "rock 'n' roll" instead. Hard touring (especially with Tina Turner) built reputation as good live performer and finally had major hit with "Run To You". Extrovert onstage; quiet off. Partial to spaghetti and grilled cheese sandwiches.





HOWARD JONES

Howard Jones Born 23/2/55 in Southampton. The family travelled widely – Howard joined his first group in Canada – but eventually settled in High Wycombe, where Howard gained ten 'O' and two 'A' levels: "They served me no purpose whatsoever". He went on to study for a degree in classical music, but soon abandoned the piano in favour of the synthesiser, began writing pop songs, and left college without finishing the course. Supported himself by teaching piano (where he met his wife Jan) and working in a clingfilm factory, while building a loyal cult following for his one-man act in pubs and clubs (where he met mime artist Jed Hollie, now his stage partner). An idealistic peace-loving vegetarian who believes *anything* is possible if you really try hard enough, Howard sets out his philosophy in his songs: "I'm deadly serious about what I do. I believe in this *one million percent*. . ."

WAIST SIZE 26 27 28 2

SPANDAU BALLET

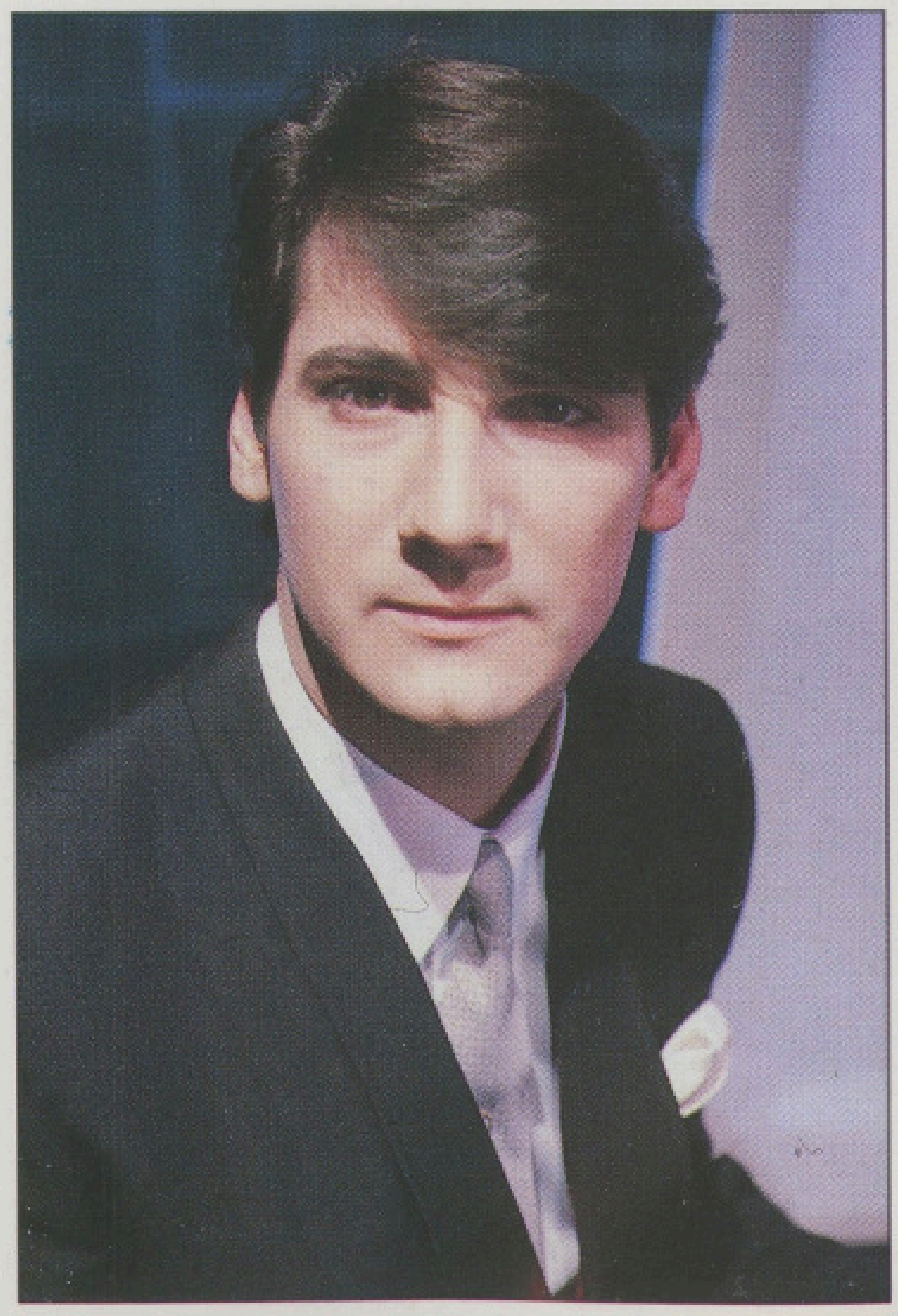


RETNA/KEES TABAK

Spandau Ballet Rose from ashes of failed power pop band, The Makers, to become centrepiece of 1979-80 London New Romantic movement. Dressed in tartan and swanky clothes and played deliberately exclusive performances in weird places (e.g. HMS Belfast, Botanical Gardens, Birmingham). With well-planned help of "sixth member", manager Steve Dagger, secured large record deal and hit with first single, "To Cut A Long Story Short". Moved from electronic disco to funk to smooth increasingly sophisticated soul. Long silence in '85 pending litigation with their record company but still gave enthusiastic performance at Live Aid and through thick and thin remain best of friends.

TONY HADLEY

Tony Hadley Born 26/6/60. Likes horse-riding, cars and expensive hi-fis. Interested and knowledgeable about current affairs. These days the least "rock 'n' roll" member of the band, probably because he's married (to Leonie) with son Thomas and daughter Toni. When on tour tries to sneak out for a *Big Mac:* "You get taken out for so many *Duck à l'oranges.*"

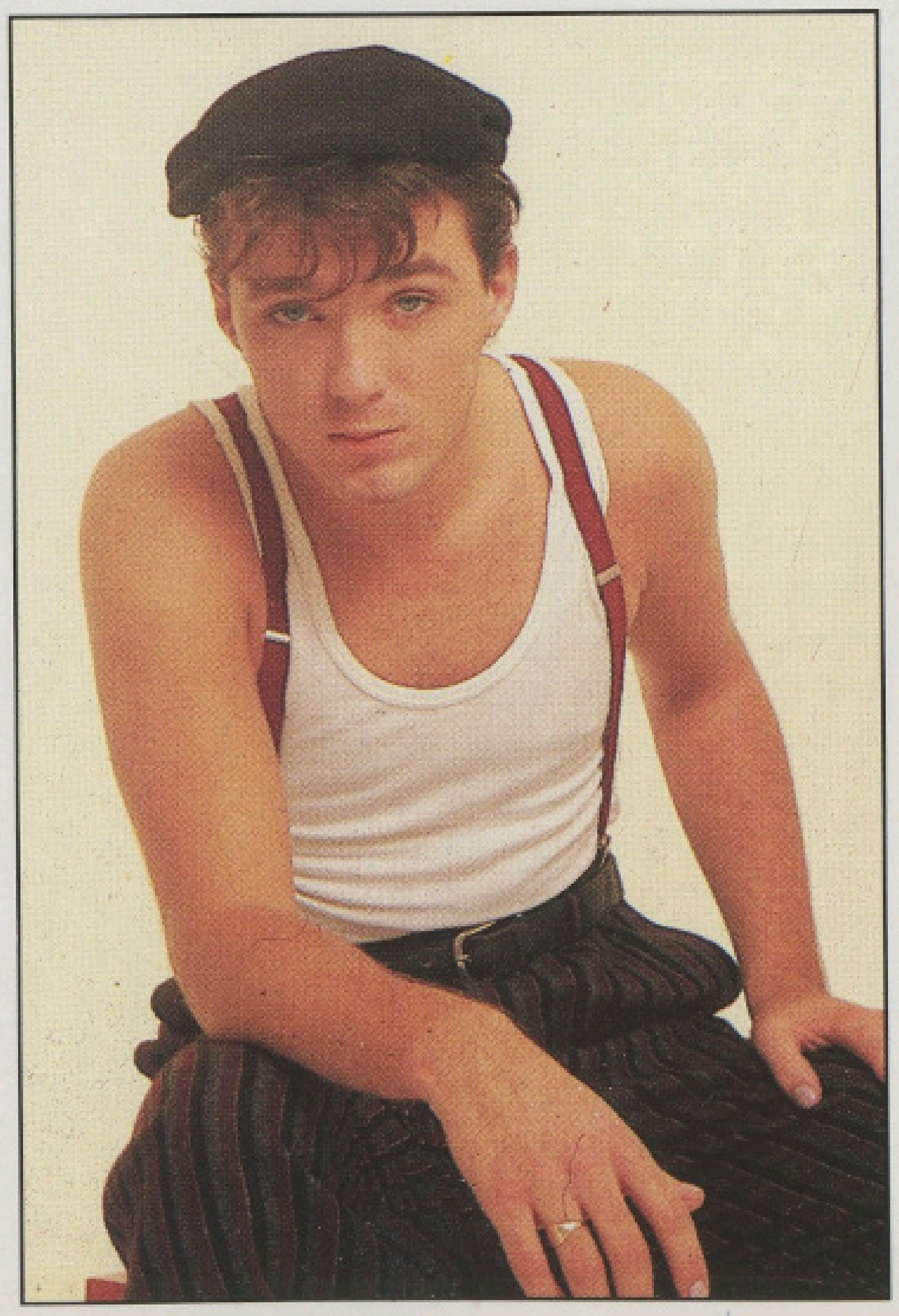


GARY KEMP

Gary Kemp Born 16/10/59. The group's songwriter: "Everytime I write a song it's like a photograph of my emotions, a piece of my soul really." With brother Martin, went to Anna Scher's acting school and appeared on TV singing "Sandman" (by U.S. folkies America) with actor Phil Daniels. Is short-sighted, and has flat full of arty nick-nacks.



MARTIN KEMP



Martin Kemp Born 10/10/61. Trained with Arsenal as young footballer but gave up because of dodgy knee. Last member to join, he replaced original bassist, Richard Miller. Last autumn he and Steve appeared in cartoon form in football comic *Roy Of The Rovers.* In real life, recently got engaged to Shirley from Wham!

STEVE NORMAN



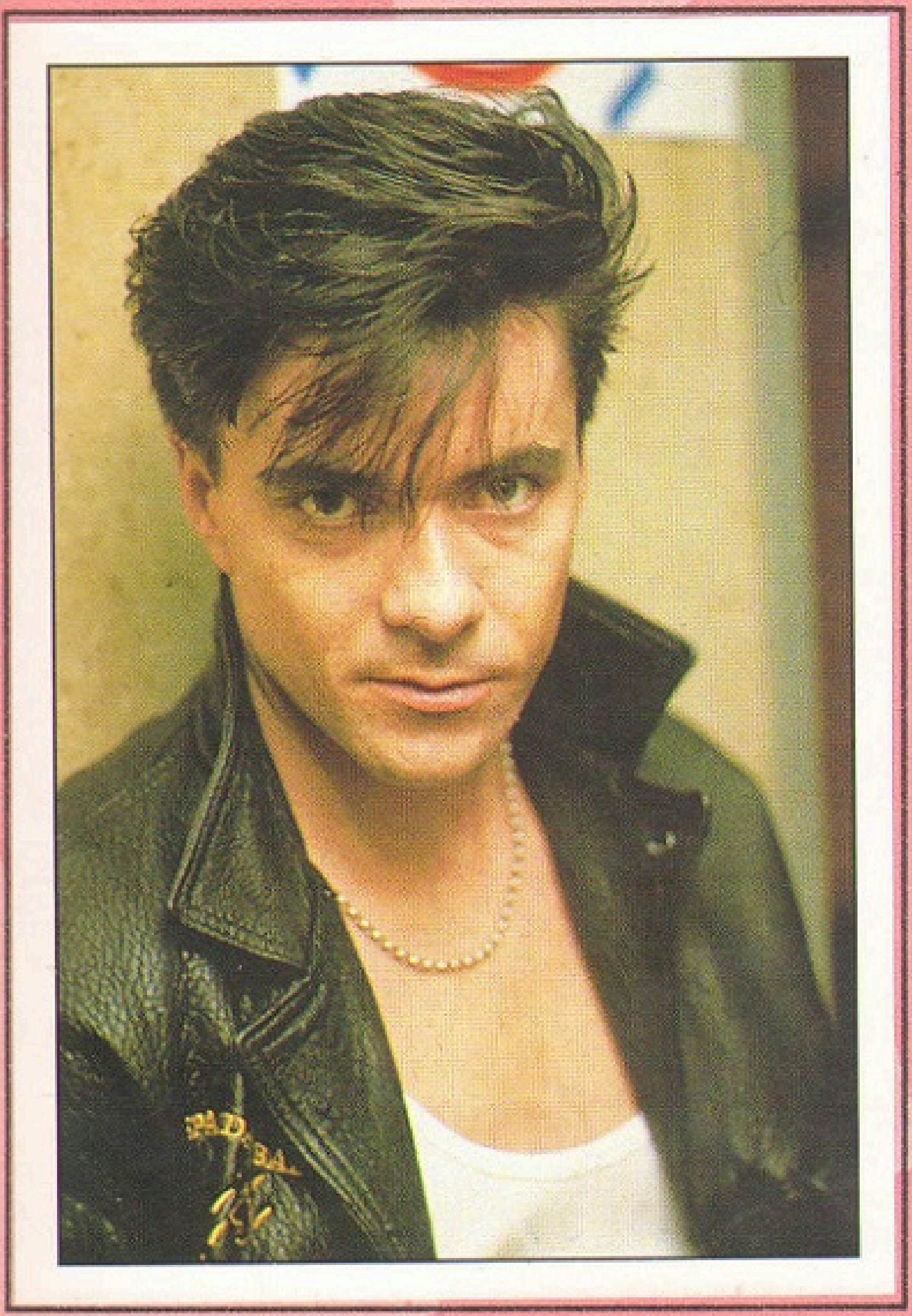
Steve Norman Born 25/3/60. Played guitar in school assembly and after leaving went into the print trade. Hobbies: photography, cooking and piranhas (has a pet one). Extremely friendly and receives most Spandau fan mail. Provides highlights of stage shows with athletic antics but as a result, badly damaged his knee last spring in America, requiring operation.

STATUS QUO



■ **Status Quo** Despite reaching the "end of the road" in '84 (their last concert at Milton Keynes was finally released on video), Quo did re-appear on stage in '85 to open Live Aid with their timeless brand of boogie. There were no new records, however, although Francis Rossi and writing partner Bernie Frost released an unsuccessful single and Rick Parfitt was working on home demos.

JOHN KEEBLE



■ **John Keeble** Born 6/7/59. Academically clever, worked on Foreign Exchange counter in bank. Quietly humorous: "When I went to the Job Centre they said 'we've got an opening as a pop star – there's quite a few fringe benefits but lots of screaming girls chase you around'. I said, 'Oh, I'll bite the bullet and try it!' It's not too bad!"

JESUS AND MARY CHAIN



■ **Jesus And Mary Chain** Scottish trio Douglas Hart and brothers Jim and William Reid chose their name "to make people look." They actively seek controversy, and are notorious for causing riots at their chaotic, under-rehearsed concerts. Even their tuneful, poppy records are obscured by a cacophony of squealing feedback: "We're obsessed by noise," they explain.

AMAZULU



■ **Amazulu** Seven-piece melting pot of varied backgrounds – Annie-Marie (vocals) from London (parents Chinese and Jamaican), Sharon (percussion) from Belize in S. America, Lesley (saxophone) from Liverpool, Clare (bass) from Brazil, Nardo (drums, only male) from St. Lucia and Margo (guitar) from S. Africa (parents Russian/Jewish). Scored with bouncy pop hits but prefer own "fusion reggae"

ADAM ANT



■ **Adam Ant** Born Stuart Goddard 3/11/54. Former punk outsider, consulted Malcolm McLaren for ideas and returned to instant teen stardom with new band, new image(s) and new catchy drum-based pop songs. Success faded drastically after dodgy Prince Charming look, though still exciting performer who retains devoted following despite indifferent hits.

STYLE COUNCIL



■ **Style Council** Loose arrangement of musicians formed by Paul Weller after disbanding The Jam to play more wide-ranging material. Keyboard player "Merton" Mick Talbot and drummer Steve White are only permanent fixtures but members of Everything But The Girl and Animal Nightlife – as well as D. C. Lee – have collaborated with them. A number of hit singles (accompanied by progressively weirder videos) have followed but two LPs – "Cafe Bleu" and "Our Favourite Shop" – have been patchy affairs. Sneered at for being politically naive, but one of the few bands to practise as well as preach – involved in Red Wedge, CND and anti-blood sports campaign.

PAUL WELLER



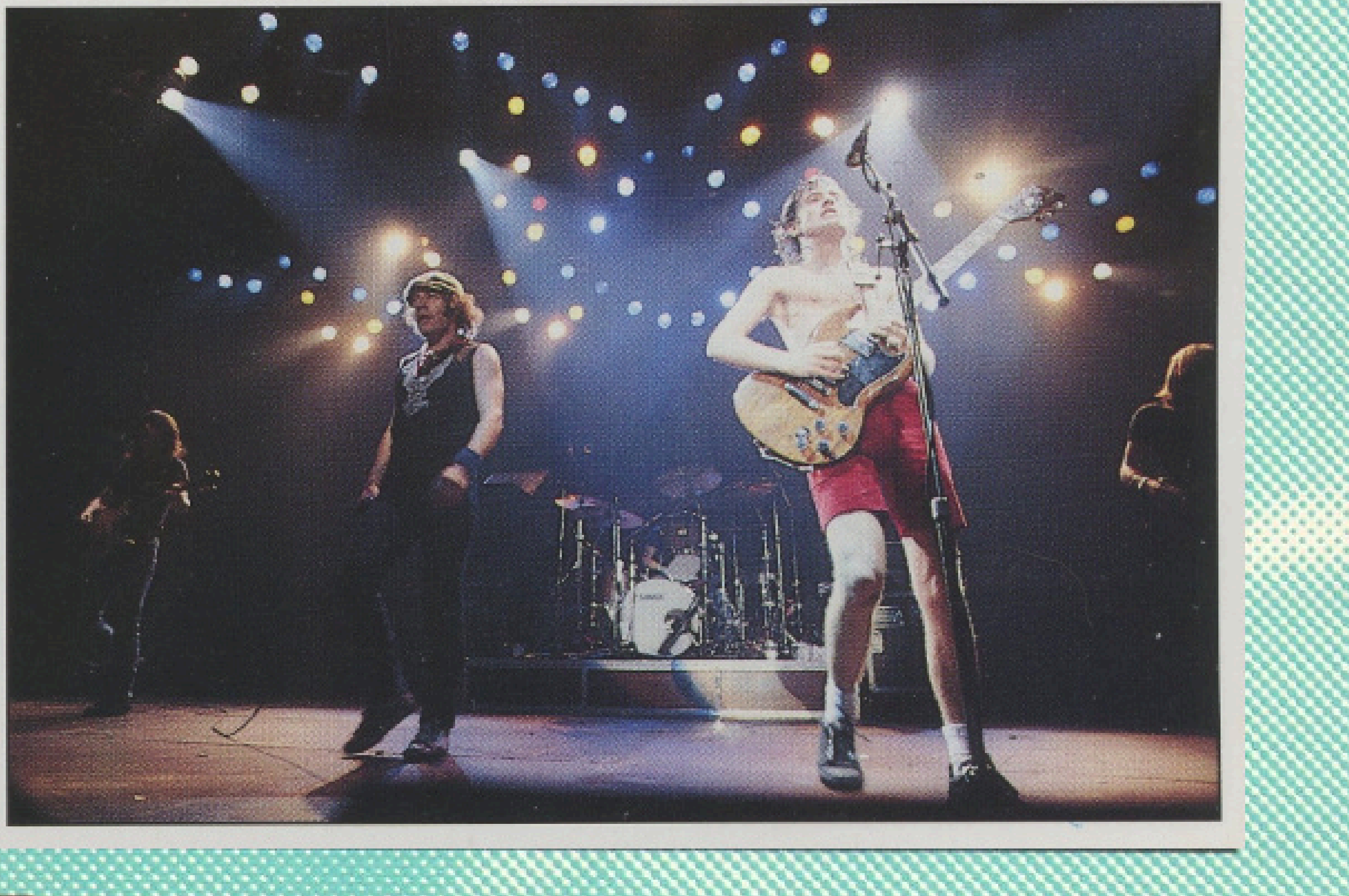
■ **Paul Weller** Born John William Weller, 25/5/58. Paul is family nickname. Stylish, humorous (yes!) and outspoken, likes vegetarian food, cappucino coffee and George Orwell's essays. Thinks that French boys are the most beautiful, was president of International Youth Year and runs Solid Bond Studios, Respond Records and Riot Stories publishing. Recently parted with girlfriend of longstanding, Gill.



PREFAB SPROUT

■ **Prefab Sprout** Formed around Paddy McAloon, a shy, obsessively dedicated North-Eastern songwriter who used to work in a garage, with help from brother/bass player Martin and girlfriend/backing singer Wendy Smith. Some say their lovingly-crafted but often complicated and obscure songs are too clever by half but Paddy reckons he's "probably the best writer on the planet".

AC/DC



■ **AC/DC** Rock band formed in Australia in 1974 by Scottish brothers Angus and Malcolm Young, first attracting attention by Angus dressing as schoolboy. Most successful in America where frenzied guitar style and screaming vocals about traditional "dirty deeds" subjects have ensured all 11 albums are gold or platinum, through deeply loyal live following worldwide.

KATE BUSH



■ **Kate Bush** Born 30/7/58. Reached No. 1 when just 18 with first single "Wuthering Heights". Soon famous for her strange acrobatic vocals, bizarre dances and saying "wow" or "amazing" all the time. Recently reappeared with "Running Up That Hill" and "Hounds Of Love" LP, another triumph. Rather reclusive, shy and a bit of a hippie, she hates the idea of pop stardom.

THOMPSON TWINS

■ **Alannah Currie** Born 29/9/59 in Auckland, New Zealand. Came to England aged 18, lured by punk and "bright lights," joining band in 1981. Responsible for lyrics and clothes, is a staunch feminist and when she went to Madonna's "hen party" gave her a whip as a wedding present. Won't talk about relationships within the band: "A private life is a private life. People can assume what they want."

■ **Tom Bailey** Born 18/1/57 into medical family. Used to teach music and also travelled in India (where he nearly died of "three types of amoebic dysentery") before forming band. Intelligent and articulate, is the band's main songwriter and singer though thinks he may have been duck in previous life: "sometimes when I'm singing I squawk". Last year collapsed from overwork but now recovered and full of beans again.

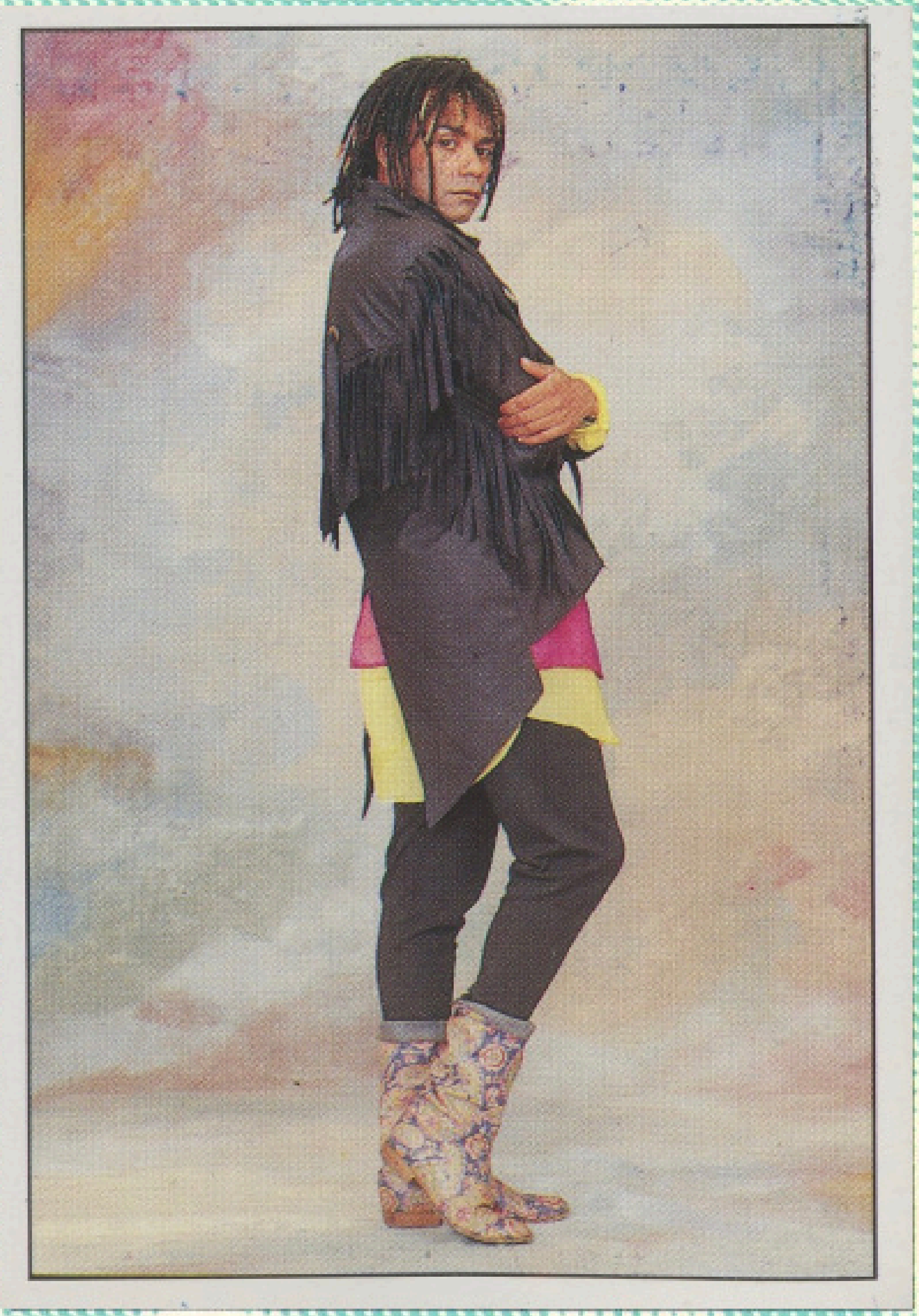
■ **Joe Leeway** Born 15/11/57 to Irish mother, Nigerian father. Fostered by elderly white couple in Kent. Worked in theatre then joined band as roadie in 1980. In charge of stage shows, but other than that sees himself as a catalyst for ideas and admits "I tend to be the minister without portfolio . . . I tend to ping pong between the other two."



ALANNAH CURRIE



TOM BAILEY



JOE LEEWAY

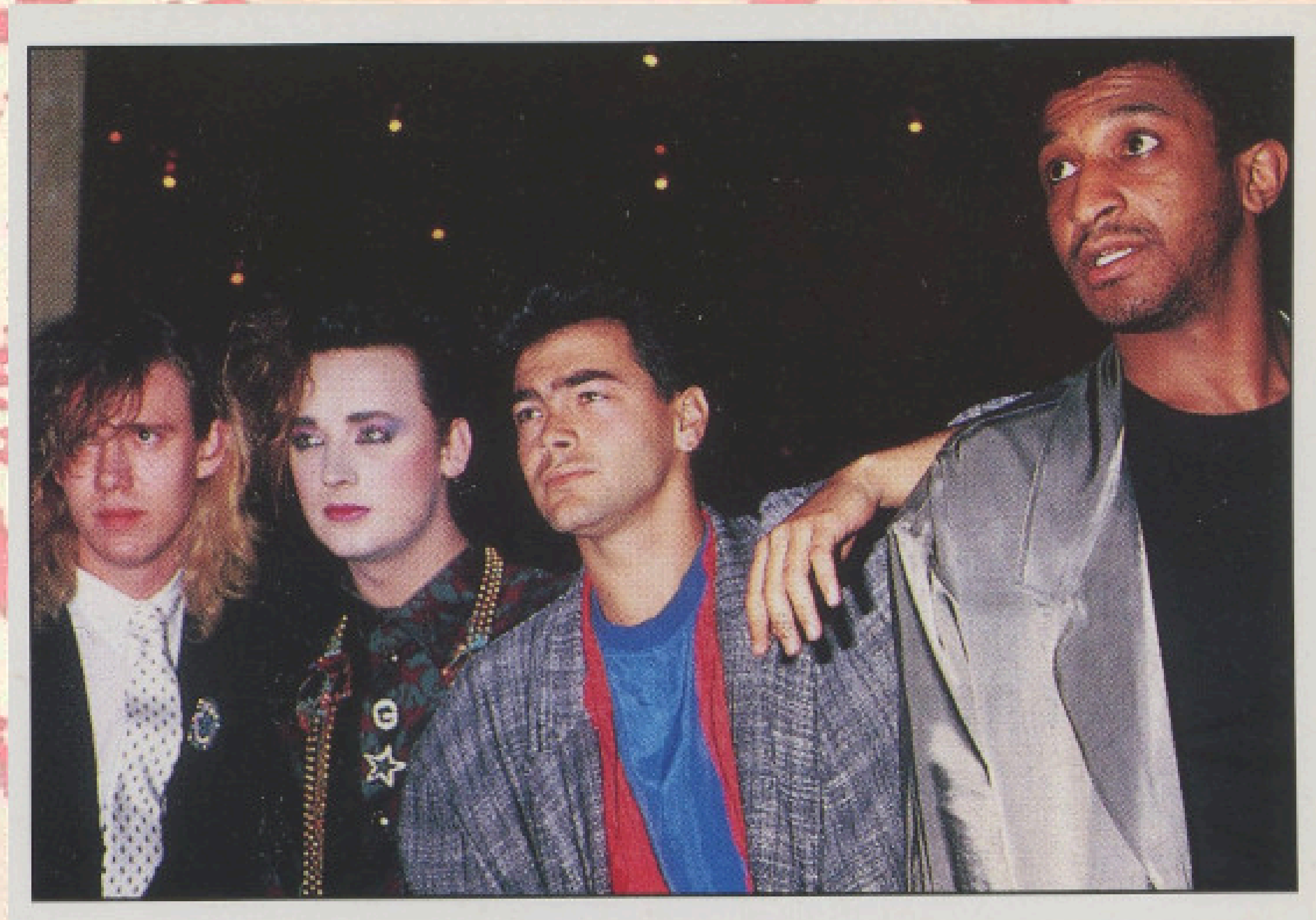
■ **Thompson Twins** Formed by Tom Bailey and a couple of friends in Chesterfield in 1977, taking name from bowler-hatted detectives in Tin-Tin cartoon books. Moved to London and expanded to messy 7 piece who handed out bits of metal and car hubcaps for the audience to bang along with. Shortly before this line-up split, Tom formed rap and dub sideline Chaos PA with newcomers Joe and Alannah. These three then became the Thompson Twins and carefully set sights on successful pop career. Recently with lacklustre "Here's To Future Days" LP and cancelled UK tour their success has been fading, but still very popular in America where they performed at Live Aid alongside Madonna.



THE CURE

■ **The Cure** Formed by short-haired Robert Smith in 1978 as fairly straightforward pop group. His hair got longer and messier, smudged lipstick appeared and the music went very dark and doomy. Recently he's perked up to be rewarded by a stream of hits. Dreams about sandmonsters, lies about owning sheep and likes drinking Earl Grey tea and eating cheese on toast in the bath.

CULTURE CLUB



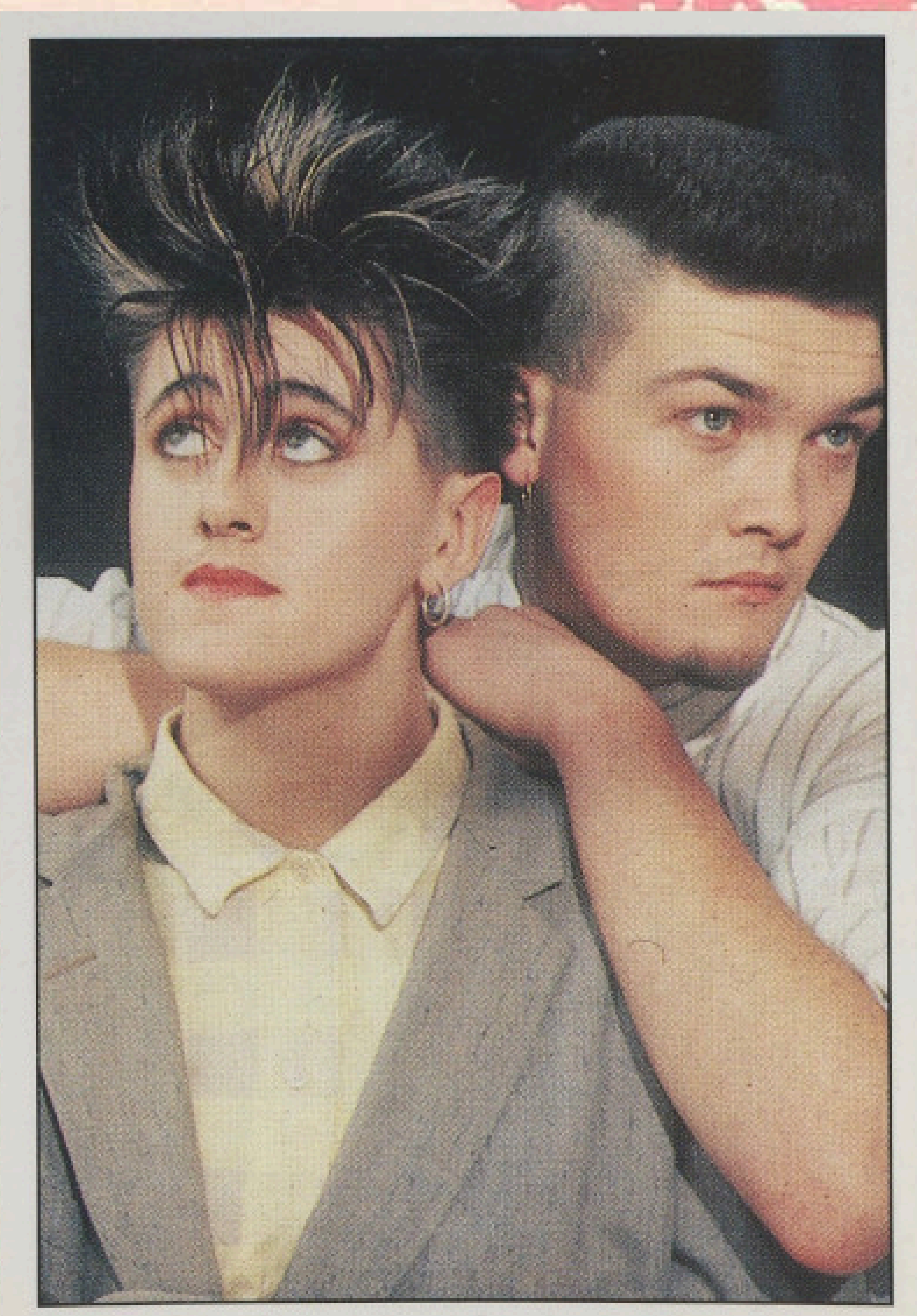
Culture Club Formed in March 1981 by Boy George (vocals), Jon Moss (drums), Mikey Craig (bass) and Roy Hay (guitar). First two singles were flops, but their third – "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me" – shot to No. 1 in September 1982. By the end of 1983 the group had released two massively successful LPs, "Kissing To Be Clever" and "Colour By Numbers" (critically acclaimed as "Perfect pop"). However the pressures of worldwide fame took their toll. As a result their third LP "Waking Up With The House On Fire" was disappointing and flopped. But he claims that Culture Club are all on good terms again these days, and denies they're down the dumper: "You get complacent and I think it's good to get a kick in the teeth because then you re-think what you're doing. We've got some brilliant songs . . ."

BOY GEORGE



Boy George Born George O'Dowd 14/6/61. Outrageous, outgoing and extremely quotable, George – the first man ever to appear on the cover of *Cosmopolitan* – has described himself as "a tart with a heart of gold", "a poof with muscles" and "a complete blob". Feeling over exposed in the national press, he's spent much of 1985 in the New York flat he shares with Marilyn, writing his autobiography.

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL



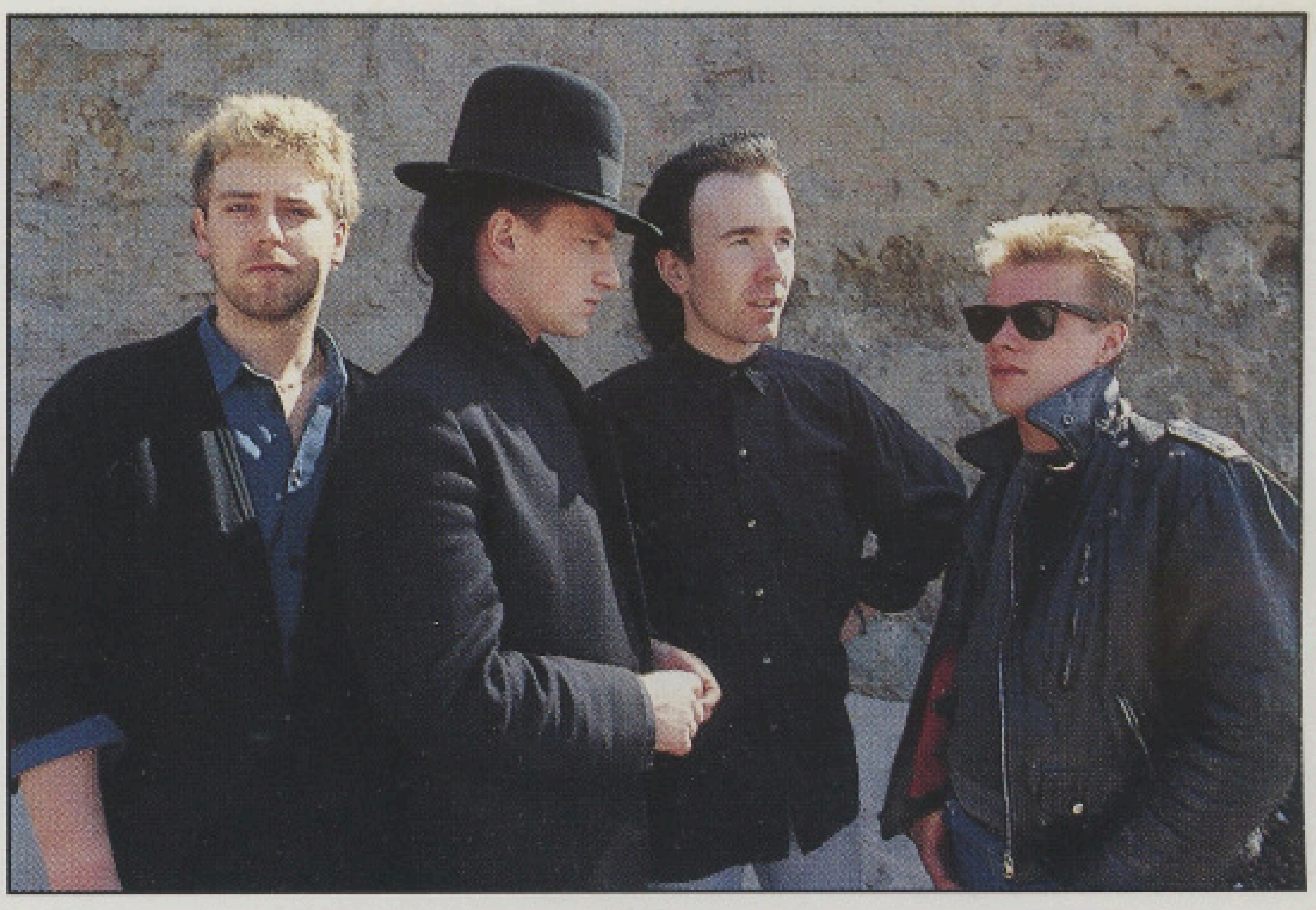
Everything But The Girl Meeting through their record company in 1982, Tracey Thorn and Ben Watt collaborated on a Cole Porter song, "Night And Day", and stayed together to write bittersweet acoustic songs. Played benefits for miners and other social causes. In '85, toured America, played in Russia and released "Love Not Money" LP. Ex-students, they live together in Hull.

LEVEL 42



Level 42 Hard-working jazz-rock quartet formed in 1979. Guitarist Boon Gould has 11 "O" Levels and 3 "A" Levels; brother Phil (drums) is windsurfing Greenpeace member; keyboard player Mike Lindup has been taking flying lessons, while bass playing star Mark King prefers gardening and working out in the gym. Together recently filmed first hit "Love Games" for club sequence in *The Fantasist*.

U2





■ **U2** Formed in summer of 1978 when Larry Mullen advertised on noticeboard at Dublin's Mount Temple school. Line-up: Bono (vocals), Larry (drums), The Edge (real name Dave Evans, guitar), Adam Clayton (bass). All but Adam are born again Christians. Attracted attention with first two LPs, "Boy" and "October", but only with the third, "War", and the single "New Year's Day" (about the Solidarity movement in Poland) did they have their first big hit. Have consolidated immense loyal following with brilliant live shows (like at Live Aid where Bono leapt into the crowd to dance with a girl) and songs like "Pride (In The Name of Love)" (about the assassination of Martin Luther King). Think that most people don't put enough into their music: "Rock 'n' roll's just skin deep at the moment."

BONO



■ **Bono** Born Paul Hewson, 10/5/60. Took name Bono Vox from Lipton Village, an imaginary world occupied by other curiously-named friends when young. Is passionately determined that U2's music should mean something – spent much of last year touring the world talking to people and informing himself; before that sat on Irish committee dealing with youth unemployment. But admits his greatest gift is "making music".

CHINA CRISIS



■ **China Crisis** Quiet since "Wishful Thinking" hit, it was a smashing start to the year for the Liverpudlians when, "Flaunt The Imperfection" LP completed, they left the studio, skidded on ice and walloped into a wall, breaking Gary's arm and Gazza's jaw. "Black Man Ray" and "The Highest High" provided them with hits of a better nature.

D. C. LEE

■ **D. C. Lee** Born Diane Sealey (Dee Sealey – get it?) 6/6/61. Model and session singer who joined then unknown band Wham!. After "Club Fantastic", decided "there was more to life than being a glammed-up chick in the background" and went solo. Met Paul Weller and became honorary Style Council member. Several flops before finally scoring with own "See The Day".

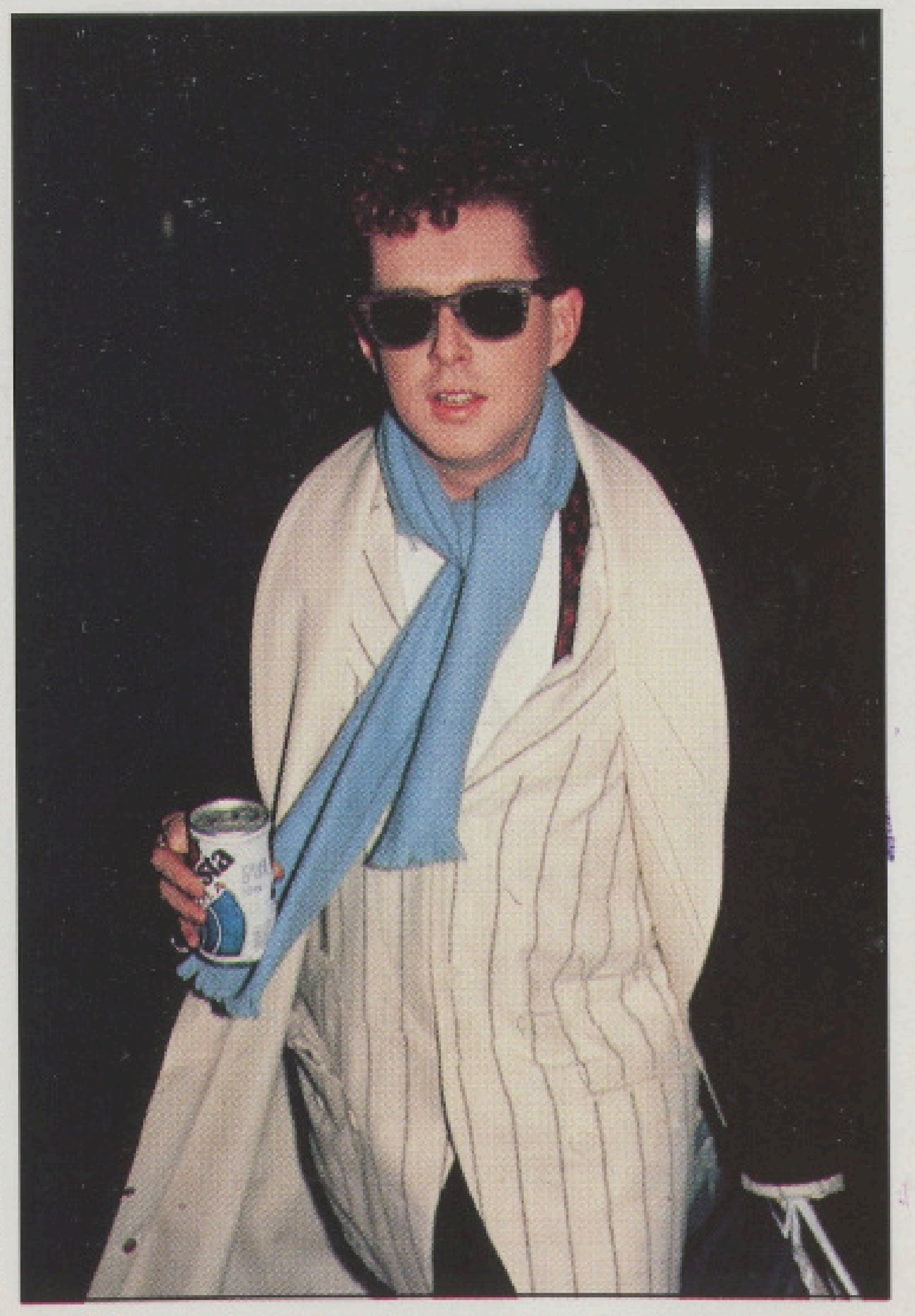


FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD



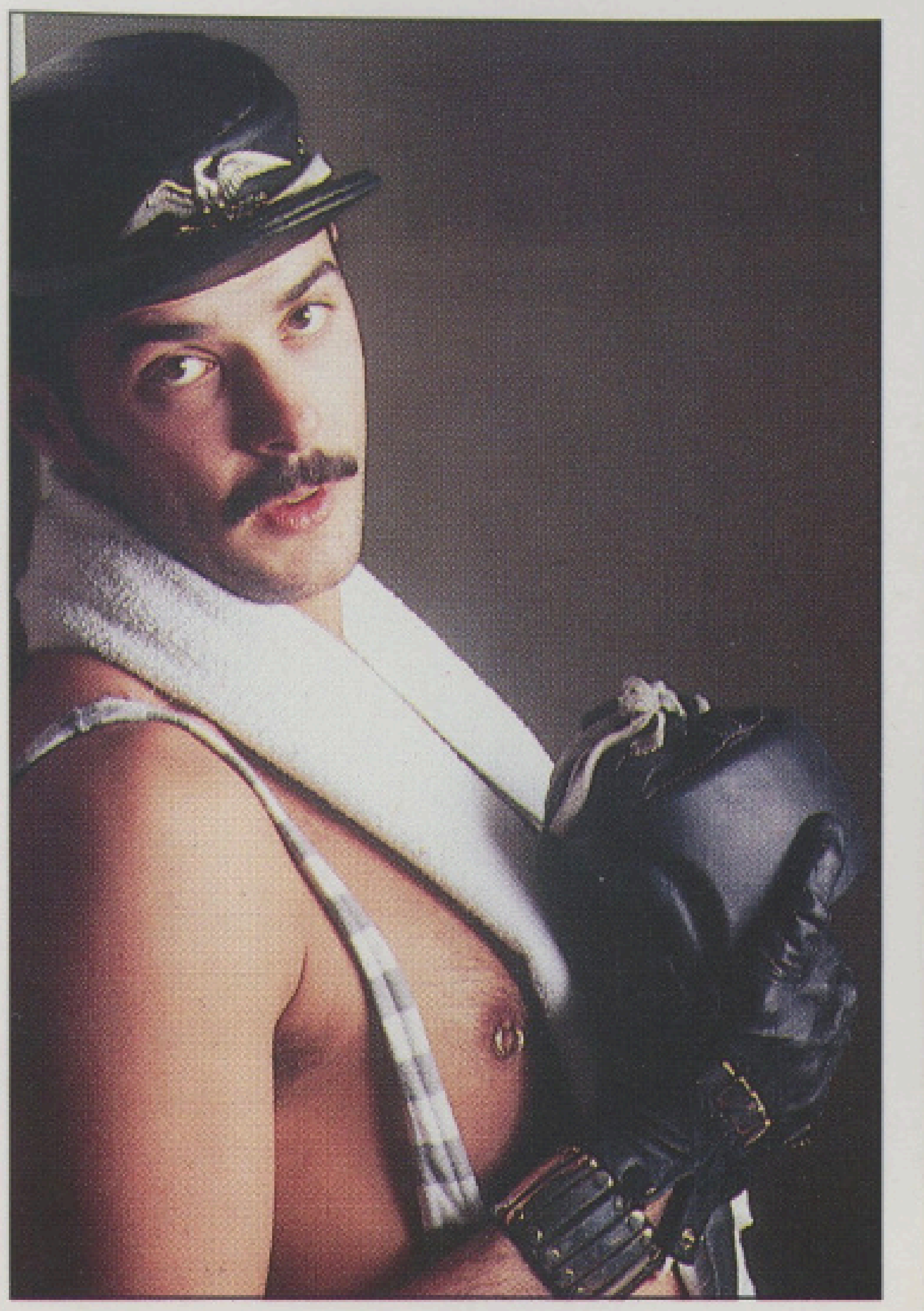
Frankie Goes To Hollywood Took name from old American movie magazine about Frank Sinatra's move to Los Angeles. Signed to producer Trevor Horn and writer Paul Morley's new ZTT label after appearance on *The Tube*, and "Relax" reached No. 1 in early 1984 after notorious Mike Read ban by BBC. "Two Tribes" and "The Power Of Love" also hit top position, equalling Gerry & Pacemakers' record of first three singles going to No. 1. After patchy "Welcome To The Pleasure Dome" LP (and single which only made No. 2), band toured America with Mark's brother Ged added on guitar before disappearing to Ireland, Spain and Holland to write second LP.

HOLLY JOHNSON



Holly Johnson Born 19/2/60. Real first name William – given name Holly in his teens after character in Lou Reed's "Walk On The Wild Side". Arty, camp, outrageous and witty, he got into more trouble at last year's BPI Awards when he introduced Prince as someone with whom he'd had "sex on the phone".

PAUL RUTHERFORD



Paul Rutherford Born 8/12/59. Attended St Helens College of Art and made clothes, including a dress for Holly. Girlfriend bought him left bicep tattoo of an ace card when he was 19. Though always grouped with Holly as one of the "gay pair", also hangs out with the lads. Very stylish, plans to open *Rutherfords* fashion shops.

MARK O'TOOLE



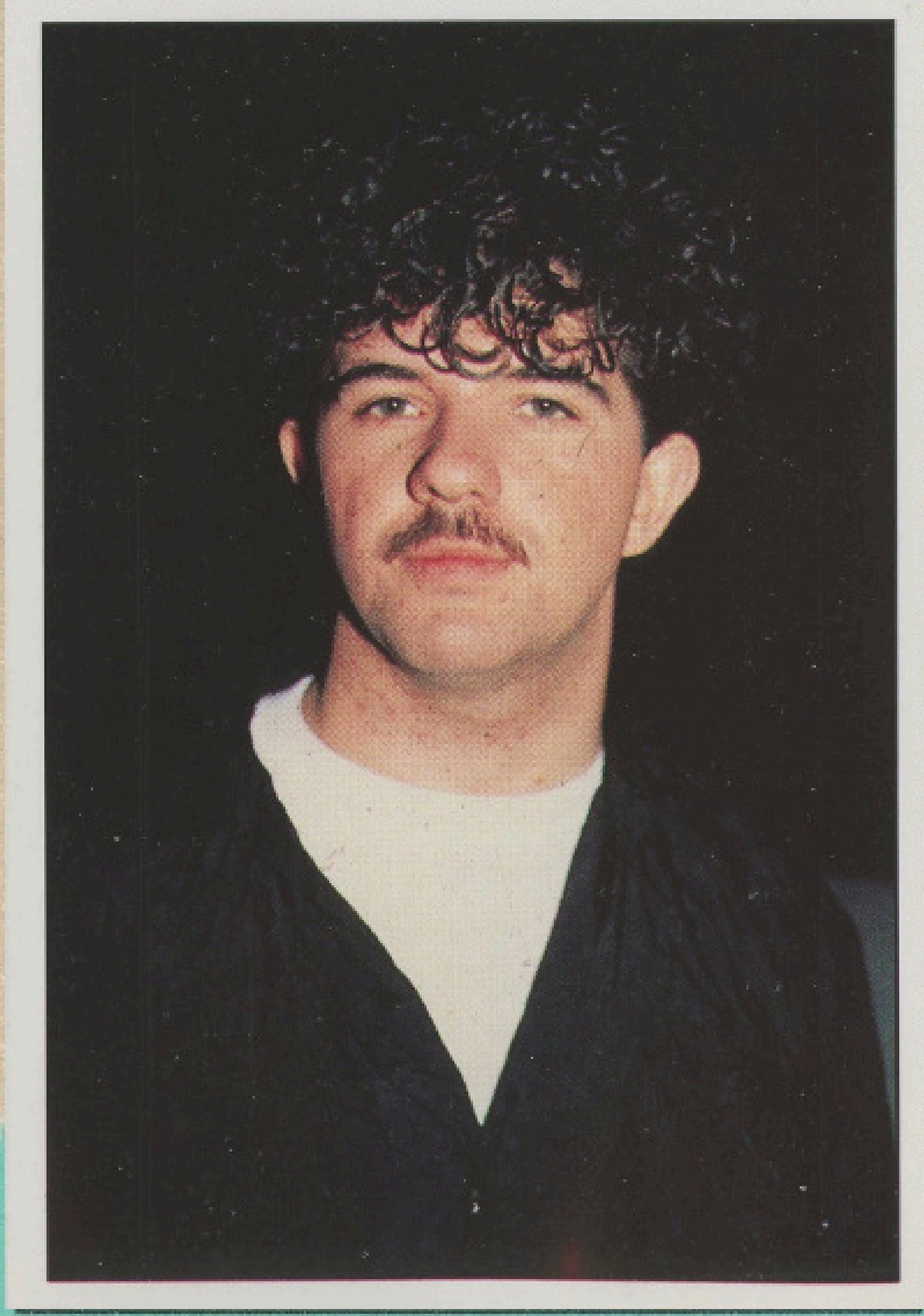
Mark O'Toole Born 6/1/64, Nasher's cousin. Used to work as an apprentice joiner with Liverpool Corporation. Much to the others' displeasure, seems to get most attention from girls. Lists biting his nails as his worst habit. Is a model car enthusiast, despises Cyndi Lauper and is, according to Nasher, "a totally unreliable bastard".

BRIAN NASH



Brian Nash Born 20/5/63. Formerly electrician. An avid reader, has a cat called Clancy and may or may not be engaged to his girlfriend, Claire Bryce, a nurse from Liverpool. Reckons that Frankie shouldn't be controversial for the sake of it as it's becoming a gimmick. "People get bored with gimmicks. Skateboards didn't last long, did they?"

PED GILL



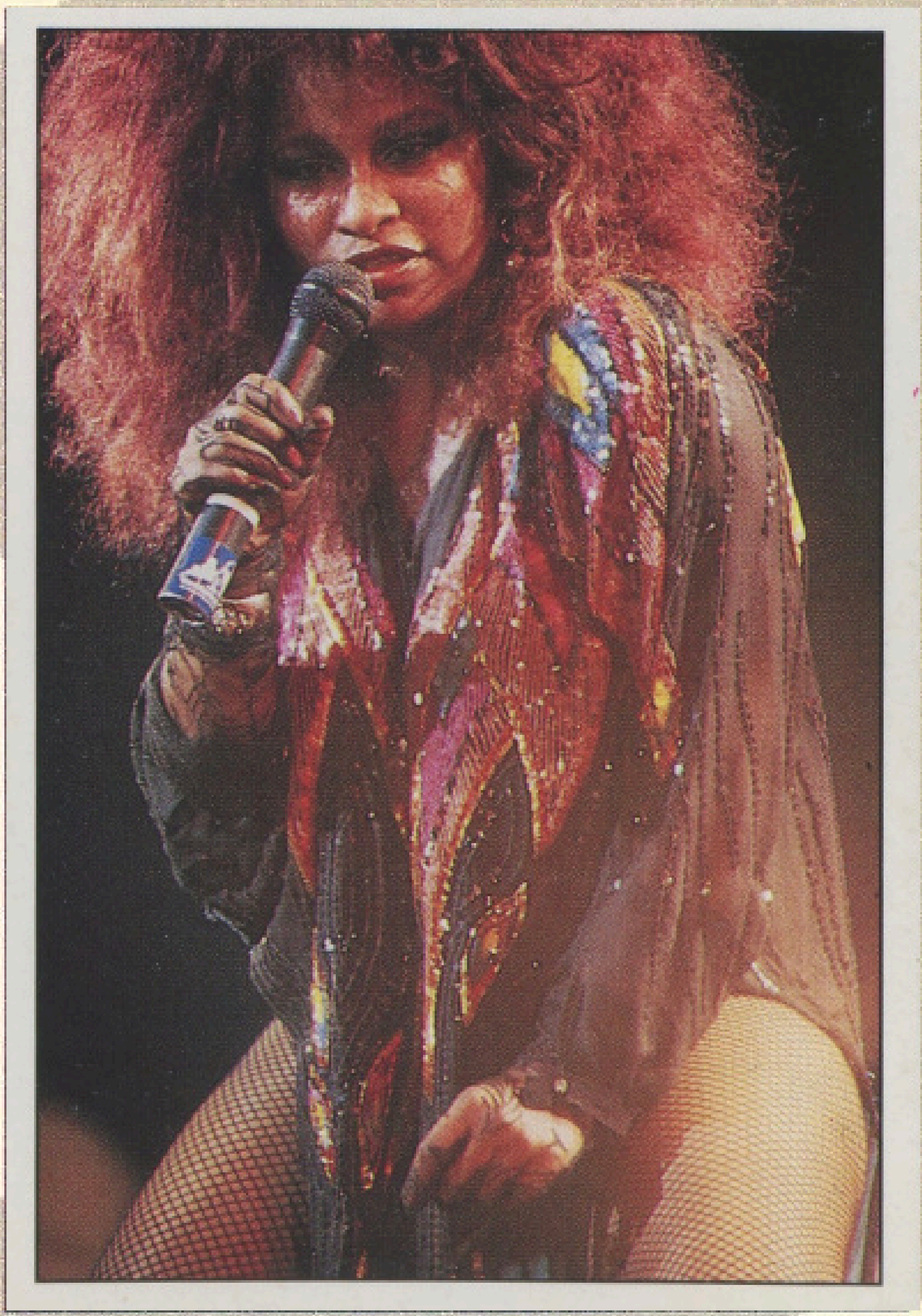
■ **Ped Gill** Born 8/3/60. Real name Peter. Wanted to be bike rider in teens until he cycled into a car when turning to watch a girl, and scarred his lip. Before Frankie, by day was a wood machinist until made redundant. Gave up early ambitions as a guitarist: ''I could work one hand but not the other.''

BILLY BRAGG



■ **Billy Bragg** Born 20/12/58. A natural storyteller, Billy plays his barbed love songs and socialist anthems to vast festivals and tiny benefits alike, with only his trusty battered guitar for accompaniment. Artists as diverse as Kirsty McColl and Paul Young have covered his songs, but increasing financial success hasn't tarnished his fervent left-wing idealism: ''It's an achievement to be proud of''.

CHAKA KHAN



■ **Chaka Khan** Born Yvette Marie Stevens, 23/3/53. Name is African for fire, water and the colour red. Started singing to support herself when 16. Joined band Rufus and went on to release string of successful albums. Recent string of solo hits began with ''I Feel For You'', written by Prince with rap from Melle Mel; since its success Chaka has disclaimed the song calling it ''the pits''.

THE DREAM ACADEMY



■ **The Dream Academy** Nick Laird-Clowes met Gilbert Gabriel in jangly pop band The Act, the two of them forming The Dream Academy. Originally an 8-piece, they'd slimmed to Nick, Gilbert and ex-Ravishing Beauty Kate St John by the time they released their first single, ''Life In A Northern Town''. Dismissed by detractors as wimpy hippies, they remain committed to making ''beautiful pop music''.

DIRE STRAITS



■ **Dire Straits** Formed by ex-teacher Mark Knopfler, were discovered after rough version of ''Sultans of Swing'' was played on a London radio show. Since then their laidback, technically perfect and often extremely long songs have established them as favourites with middle-aged rock fans everywhere though recently shorter, rockier songs like ''Money For Nothing'' have given them hits and new, younger audience.

STRAWBERRY SWITCHBLADE



Strawberry Switchblade Formed in 1982 by Glasgow ex-art students Jill Bryson and Rose McDowall; took their name from an obscure song by Orange Juice. Second single "Since Yesterday" was a hit, but have had less success since with their fragile, slightly twee pop. Best known for their flamboyantly be-ribboned polka-dot clothes and sense of humour: "We're just two scabby witches from Scotland."

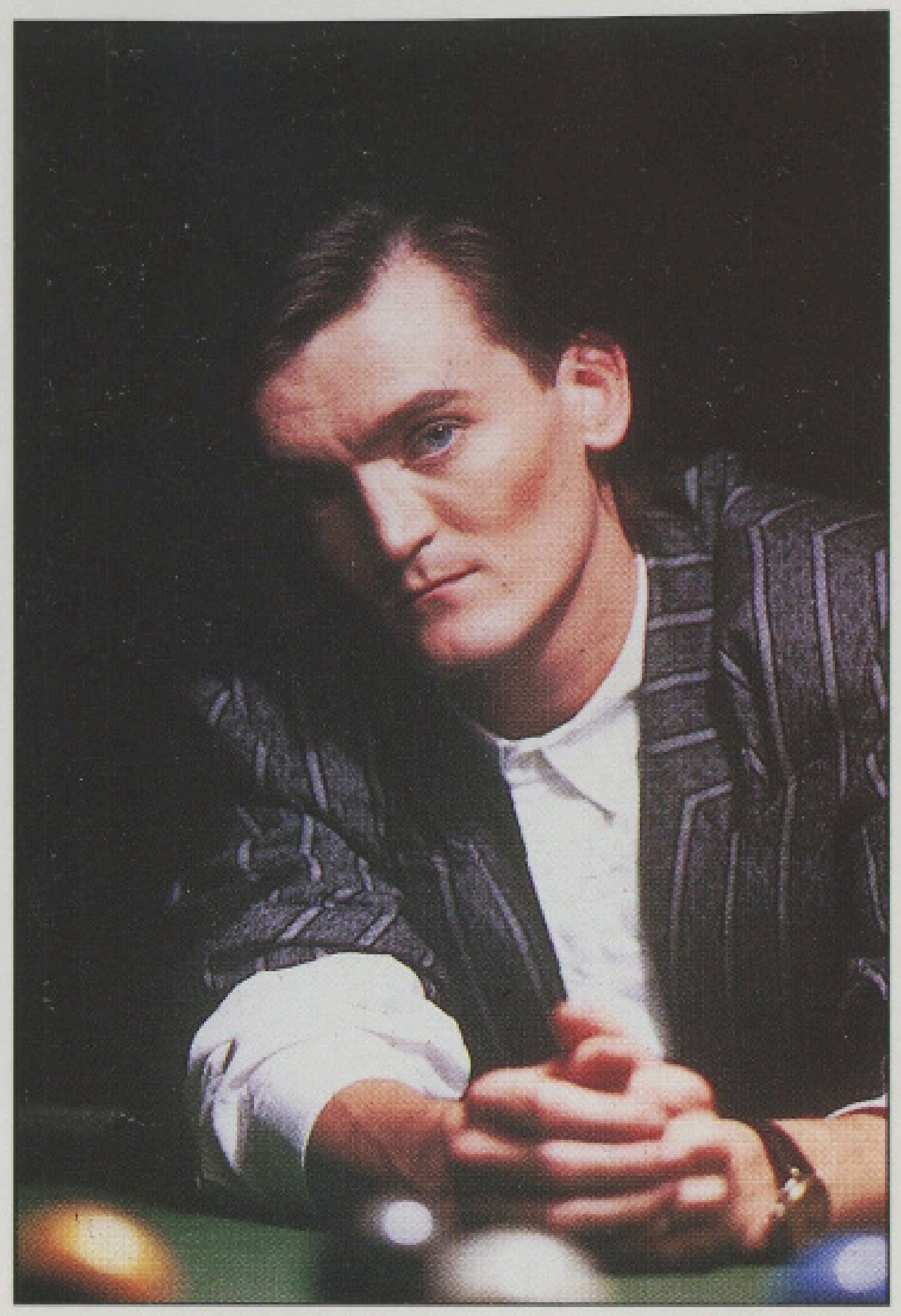
LOOSE ENDS



VIRGIN RECORDS

Loose Ends Brainchild of Steve Nichol who'd previously played trumpet on The Jam's "The Gift" LP. The 11-piece band eventually whittled down to Steve, base player Carl McIntosh and singer Jane Eugene (whom Steve met at a fashion show). After a couple of years, they had their first hit in 1985 with their slick, sweet soul "Hangin' On A String (Contemplating)".

FEARGAL SHARKEY



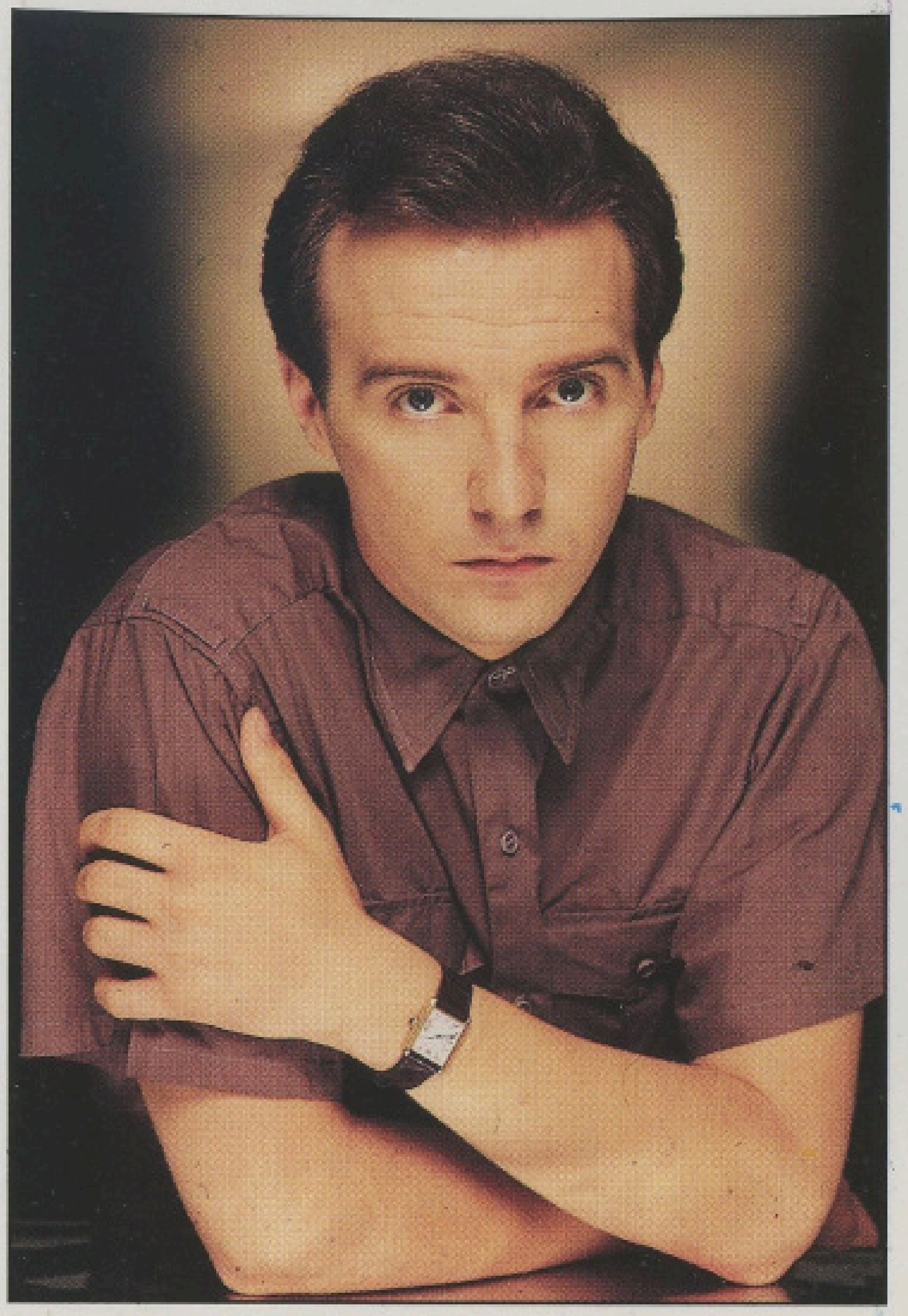
Feargal Sharkey Born 13/8/58 in Ireland. Started career as vocalist for classic punksters The Undertones. Has since worked solo with the likes of Madness, Vince Clarke and Eurythmics' Dave Stewart, and is altogether more suave and sophisticated. Claims music was his salvation: "Otherwise I'd have ended up in an asylum completely round the twist."

ULTRAVOX



Ultravox Formed by John Foxx five years before the arrival of Midge Ure to join bass player Chris Cross (real name Christopher Allen), keyboard player/violinist Billy Currie and Canadian drummer Warren Cann. After an uncertain start – Billy Currie recalls Midge singing "Vienna" during rehearsals and wondering what on earth this new guy was on about – the selfsame "Vienna" gave them their breakthrough big hit. Ultravox took most of 1985 off while Midge embarked on his solo career and Billy built his own studio, but their greatest hits album "The Collection" kept them high in the charts. Recording begins again in 1986.

MIDGE URE



Midge Ure Born 10/10/58. Spent two years as apprentice engineer in Glasgow before becoming unwilling teenybop star as member of Slik. Spent years as guitarist and synth player with Rich Kids, Thin Lizzy and Visage trying to live it down. Loves technology and vintage cars. Spent most of '85 deeply involved in Band Aid project and launching successful solo career.

FIVE STAR



■ **Five Star** A family group in the tradition of The Jacksons, Five Star come from Romford, Essex and comprise Steadman (21) who once won a Michael Jackson lookalike contest, Doris (19) and Lorraine (18) who choreograph their dance steps, Denis (17) who's the main vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist Delroy (15). Groomed for stardom by father Buster Pearson via lightweight club-soul records.

THE COMMUNARDS



■ **The Communards** Jimmy Somerville marched out of Bronski Beat in spring '85 after political and musical differences came to a head. Formed The Communards with old friend, classically-trained Richard Coles (who'd played on Bronski Beat's LP). Jimmy insists he's more concerned to champion left wing and gay causes than achieving commercial success. "I was fed up with being a pop star."

SHAKIN' STEVENS



■ **Shakin' Stevens** Born Michael Barrett 4/3/48. Worked briefly as an upholsterer before fronting Welsh rock 'n' roll tearaways The Sunsets. After appearing in musical "Elvis", in the '70s, has become an immensely successful family favourite with his sprightly mix of light rock 'n' roll and ballads. Man of few words but endless hits.

THE DAMNED



■ **The Damned** Formed in '76 as one of the first and most cheerfully incompetent punk bands. After a couple of hits they split up, but last year the re-formed Damned – now Dave Vanian (vocals), Roman Jugg (guitar), Bryn Merrick (bass) and Rat Scabies (drums) – enjoyed their greatest success ever by wearing frock coats, ranting about vampires and playing rollicking '60s pop.



MADONNA

Madonna Louise Ciccone was born on 16 August 1958, one of eight children, in an Italian family in Detroit, Michigan.

Her tomboy sister and older brothers used to hang her on the clothes line by her underwear, and these days her brother Chris is one of the two dancers who appear on stage with her.

The name Madonna is not only real but also that of her mother, who died of cancer when Madonna was six. One of Madonna's most treasured possessions is a picture of her mother smiling and laughing while riding a horse. Madonna's father later married the family housekeeper; apparently Madonna and her stepmother don't get on too well.

When she was young her father made her take piano lessons which she hated. Eventually she persuaded him to let her take dancing lessons. ''I watched Shirley Temple and used to try to copy her when I was a little girl,'' she has said. ''I used to give the girls in my neighbourhood dance lessons in the basement. As I got older, I gave lessons to boys.''

When Madonna was 12, she was sent to schools where they taught tap and jazz dancing, baton twirling and gymnastics. When she was 15, she started taking ballet lessons every day. Even then she was attracting attention by wearing ripped-up tights and leotards festooned with safety pins.

After she left school, Madonna attended the University of Michigan on a dance scholarship but left after 1½ years. In 1978 she moved to New York at the suggestion of her ballet teacher. Arriving with nothing but a satchel full of tap-dancing shoes, $35.00 in cash and a giant baby doll, she went to Times Square where she met a boy who put her up for the first two weeks.

In New York she trained at a dance school for two years on another scholarship. However, competition for work in modern dance was so intense that she auditioned for musicals and ended up with a spot in the Paris-located Patrick Hernandez Revue, based around the disco hit ''Born To Be Alive''. However, she soon returned to America after catching pneumonia.

Back in New York, Madonna started playing drums for a band called The Breakfast Club. (She also plays guitar and keyboards.) By 1980 she was singing in a band called Emmy (her Breakfast Club nickname) with college chum Steve Bray (who co-wrote four songs on her ''Like A Virgin'' LP). She then toured the club circuit and through a DJ friend managed to secure a record deal.

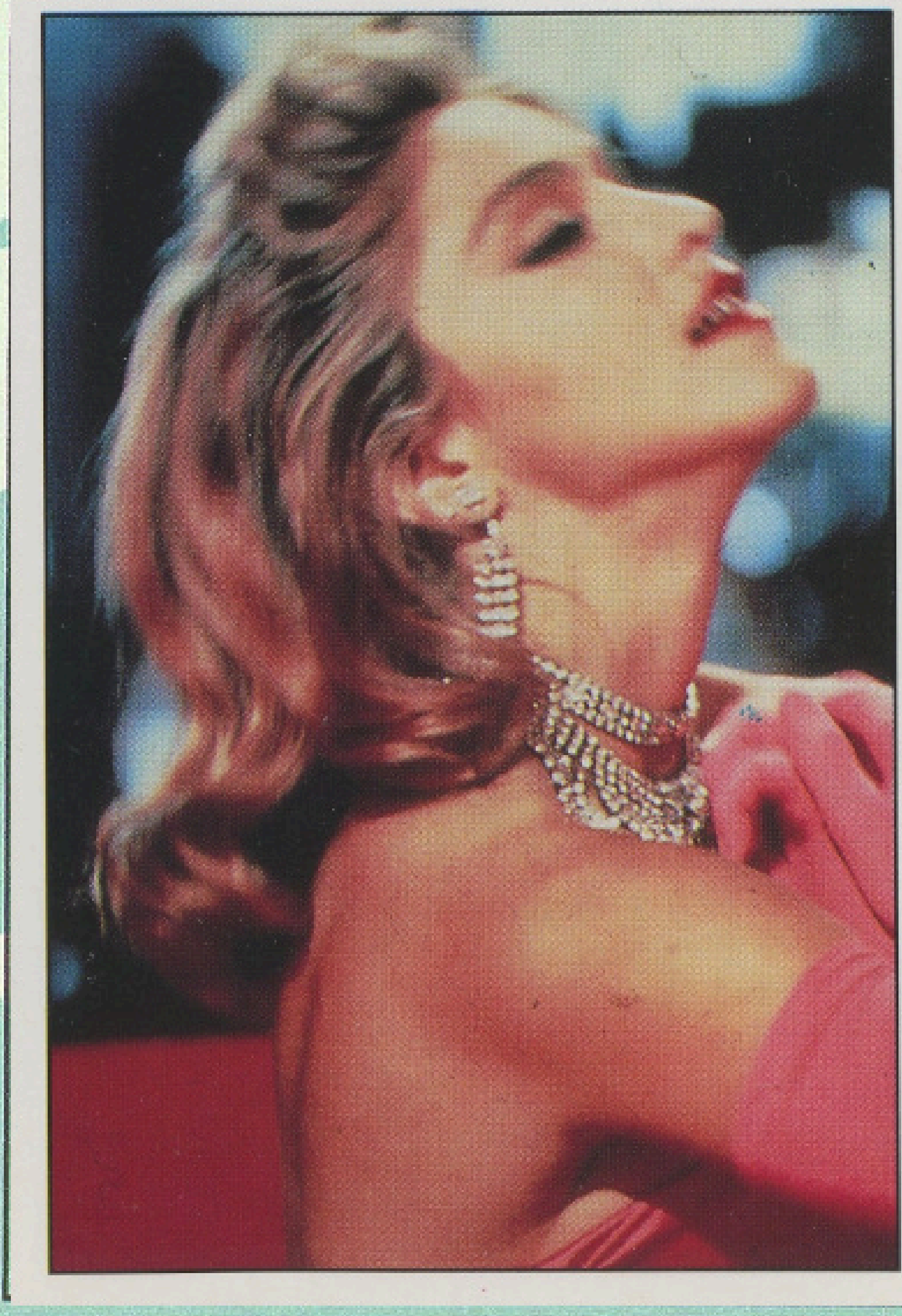
Madonna's first album was released in June 1983, but her first hit ''Holiday'' didn't come until February 1984. Her real string of hits started in December 1984 with ''Like A Virgin'' and ''Material Girl''. The release of her second LP ''Like A Virgin'' was put back four months while Madonna was filming *Desperately Seeking Susan*.

Her first film, however, was made at school when she appeared in a friend's home-made movie with a fried egg on her stomach. Then during hard times in New York she accepted $100.00 to appear in the very dodgy *A Certain Sacrifice* as a vengeful woman who dominates three sex slaves. She also appears briefly in the fairly naff *Visionquest*, singing ''Crazy For You''.

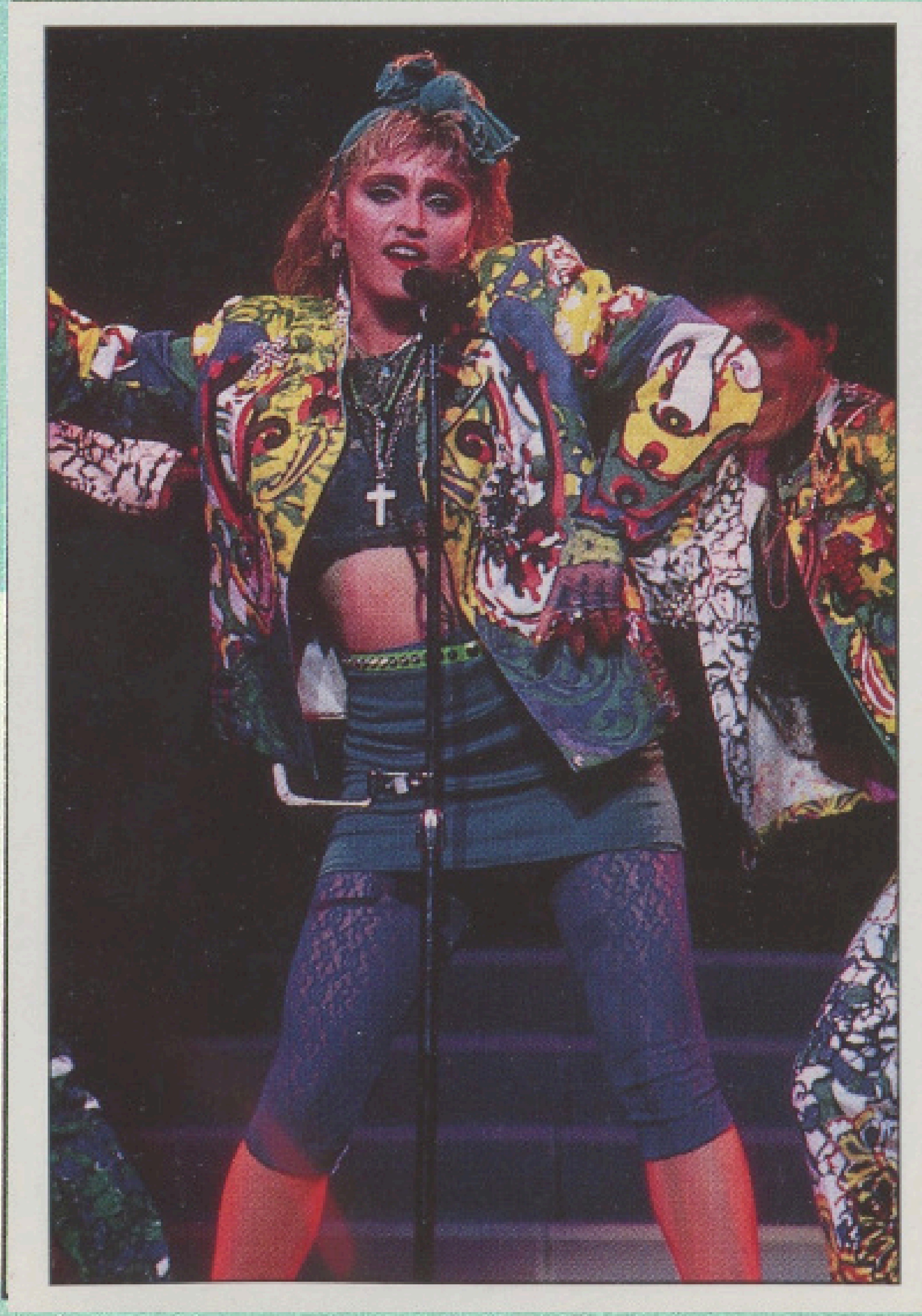
Madonna has said she'd like to become ''a memorable figure in the history of entertainment in some sexual, tragi-comic way, like Marilyn Monroe.''

Offstage, after ditching her longtime boyfriend DJ ''Jellybean'' Benitez and supposedly having flings with the likes of David Lee Roth and Prince, she finally married actor Sean Penn on her 27th birthday in a secret ceremony on a California clifftop. Ahhh . . .







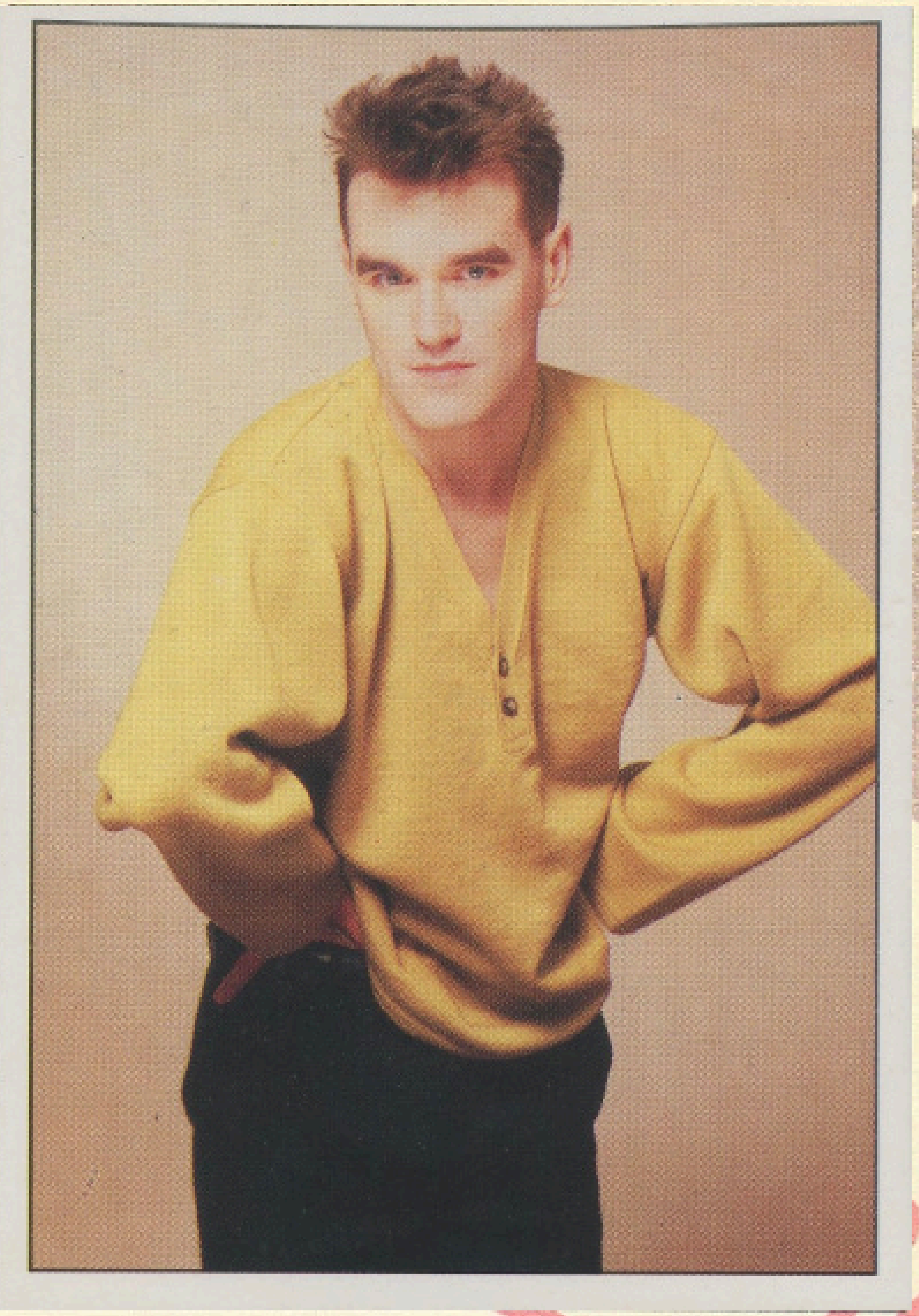


THE SMITHS



■ **The Smiths** Formed in Manchester 1982, when guitarist Johnny Marr dragged singer Morrissey from his life of solitude; bassist Andy Rourke and drummer Mike Joyce complete the line-up. Immediately successful, their songs of urban anguish have since earned them three hit albums. Notorious for their unpredictable *TOTP* appearances: "It's exciting, because we're the group that shouldn't *be* there. . ."

MORRISSEY



■ **Morrissey** Born Stephen Morrissey 22/5/59. Once described by his friend Pete Burns as "the public face of loneliness", Morrissey is a solitary, obsessive figure who claims to be deeply sensitive, extremely miserable and totally unloved. It's all there in his lyrics: detached, acute observations of Northern life laced with black humour and genuine insight.

DAVID BOWIE



WEA RECORDS

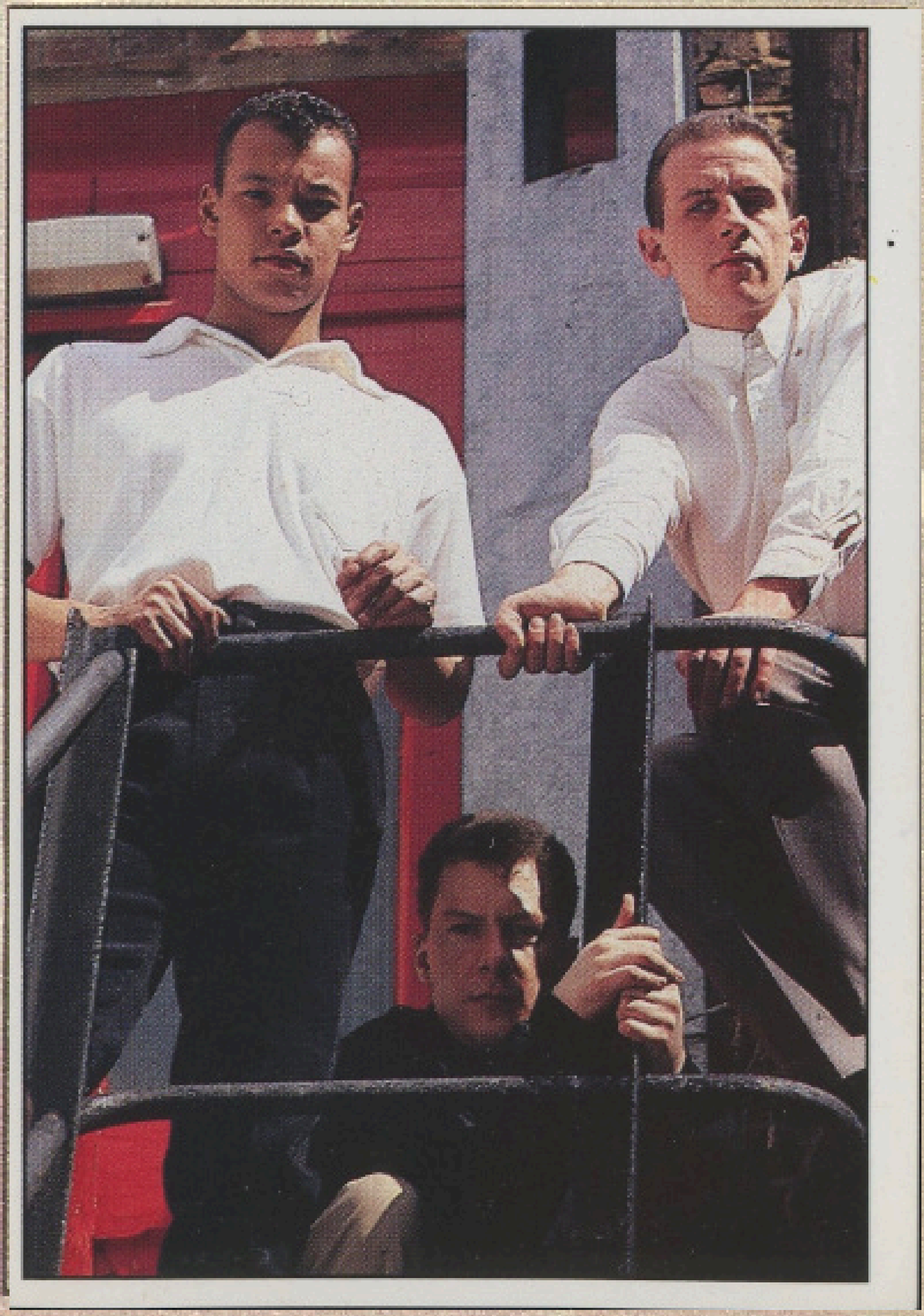
■ **David Bowie** Born Robert David Jones, 8/1/47 in Brixton, London. Briefly commercial artist. Formed Davie Jones And The King Bees in 1963. First hit, "Space Oddity", in 1969 after which continuously successful in a bewildering variety of innovative and influential styles. Also found success in theatre, TV and especially film – most recently *The Labyrinth* and *Absolute Beginners*.

RED BOX



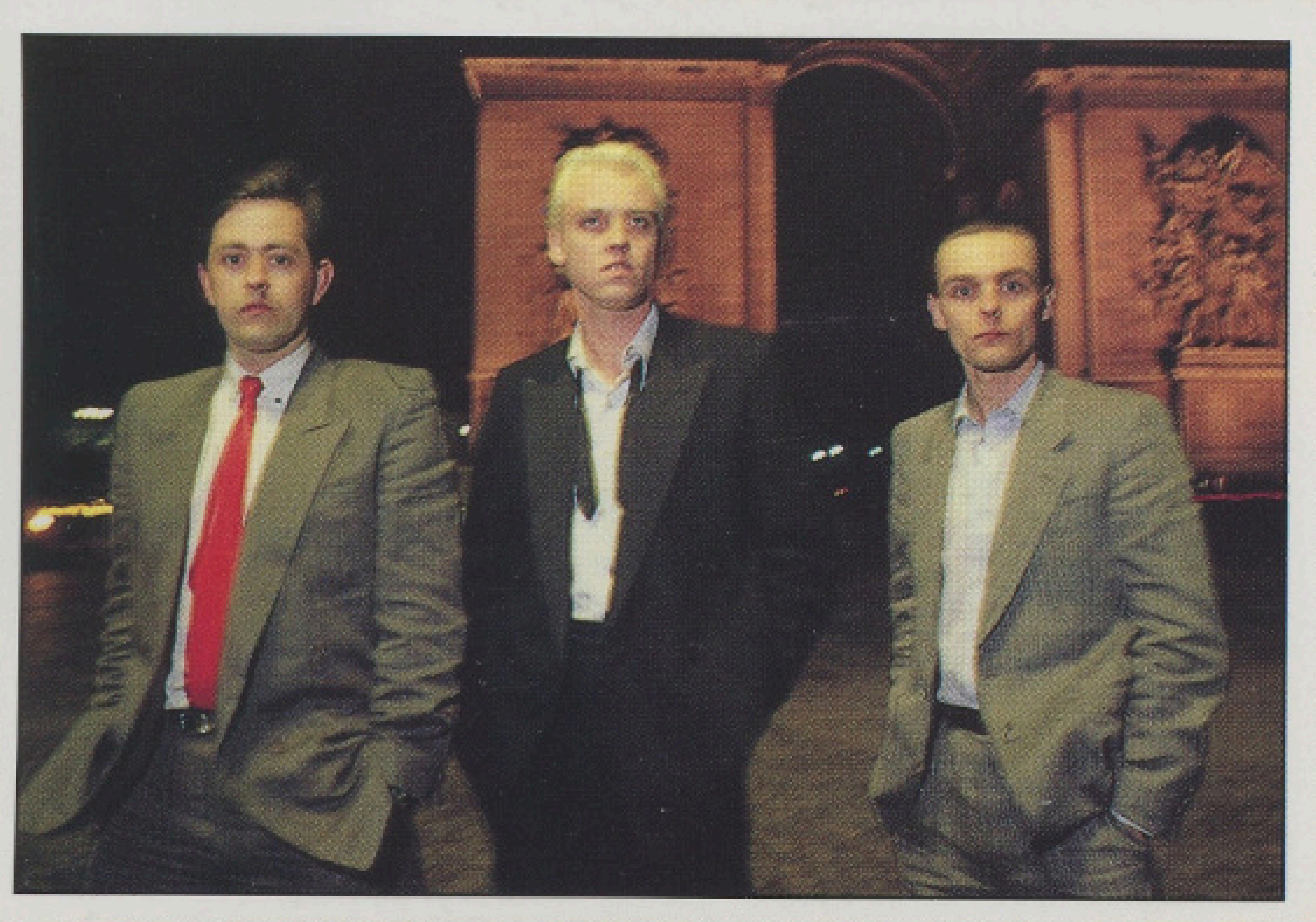
■ **Red Box** Julian Close and Simon Toulson Clarke met eight years ago as students, first performing at a college disco: "Our friends bet us £20 we couldn't get up onstage and play for half an hour without being canned off." They aim to write with "energy and drama" – like their first hit "Lean On Me", typical of their insistent, Red Indian-inspired style.

FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS



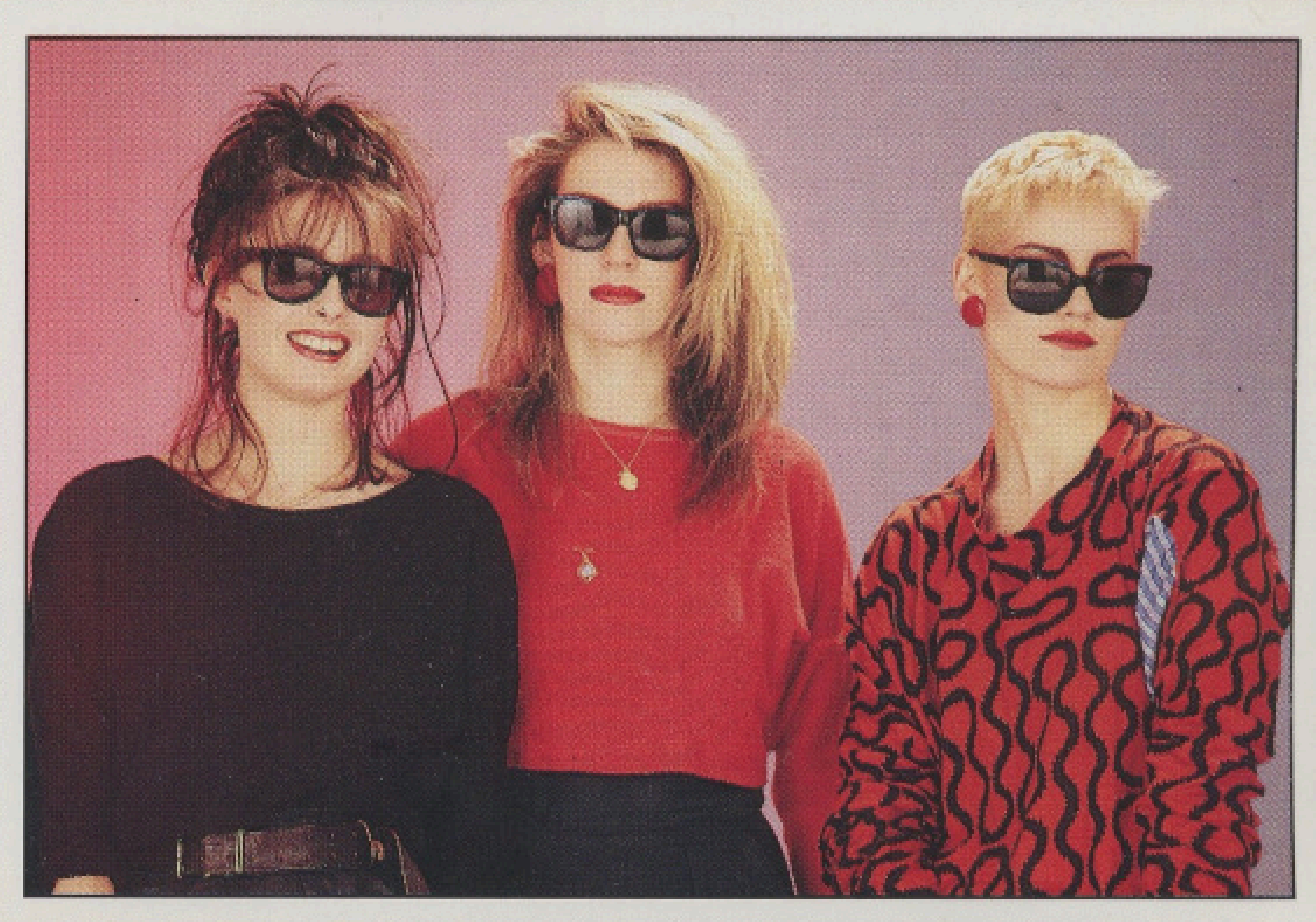
■ **Fine Young Cannibals** When The Beat split, guitarist Andy Cox and bass player David Steele spent nine months looking for the right singer before discovering Roland Gift. At first, people weren't impressed – "soul wasn't thought 'trendy' enough" – but an appearance on *The Tube* resulted in their first hit, "Johnny Come Home": "This is it . . . everything we've worked up to since we left school."

HEAVEN 17



Heaven 17 Formed by original Human League members Martyn Ware and Ian Craig Marsh with the help of singer Glenn Gregory. Much of 1985 was wasted on music for a French film project that fell through but a couple of songs were salvaged and the next album is promised to be "consciously different" from their previous distinctive electronic pop soul.

BANANARAMA



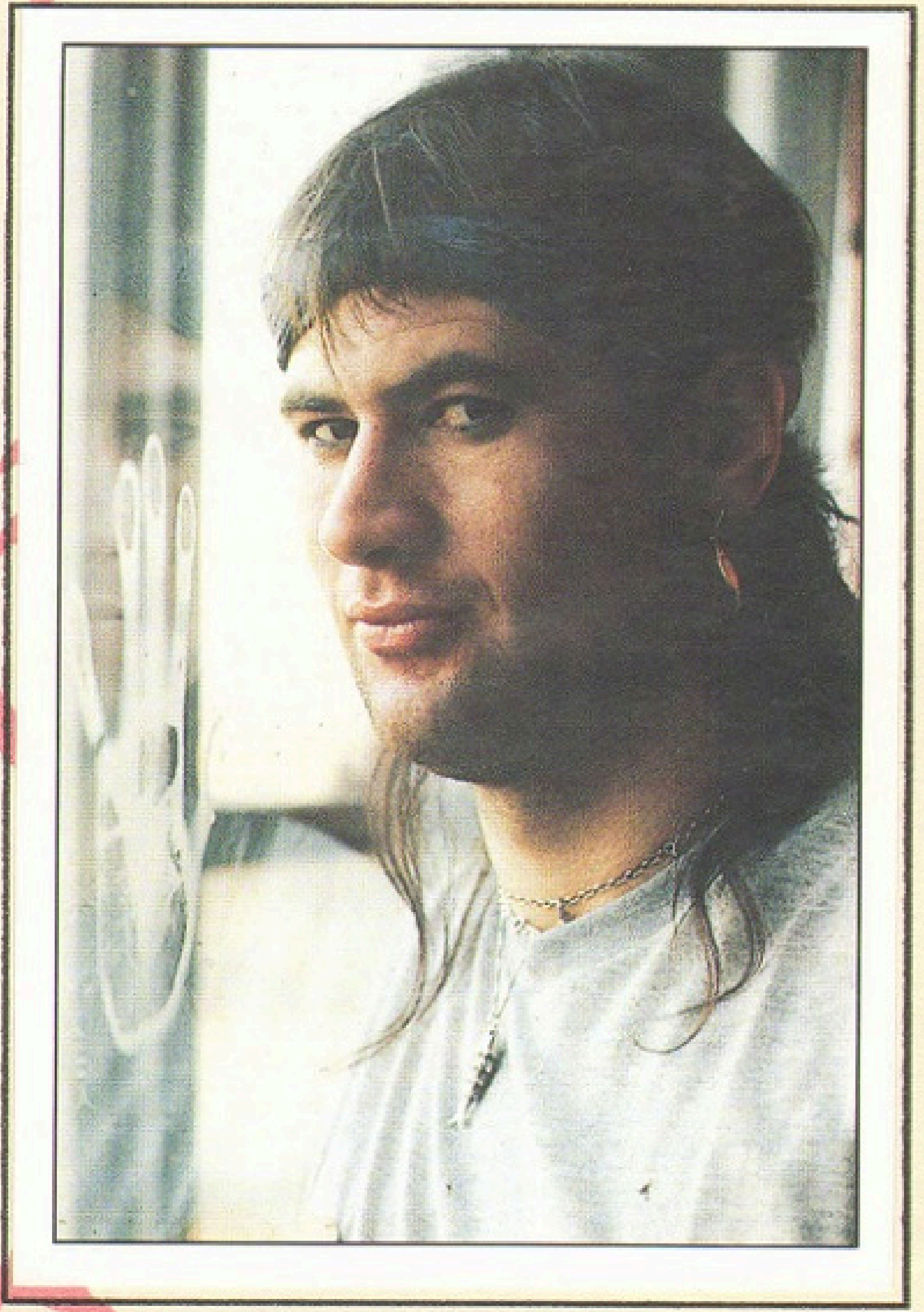
Bananarama Formed September 1979 by Sarah, Siobhan (studying journalism) and Keren (working at the BBC). Established themselves as scruffy dressers, shambolic dancers and performers of catchy, singalong dance music. Still the best of mates, they live in the same North London street. Siobhan likes gardening, Sarah watching TV in bed and Keren making phone calls in the bath.

MARILLION



Marillion Originally called Silmarillion (after the Tolkien novel), the group was formed in 1979 by guitarist Steve Rothery; the others are Fish (vocals), Mark Kelly (keyboards), Ian Mosley (drums) and Pete Trewaras (bass). At first they met with ridicule; their music, a rambling musicianly blend of such "hippyish" influences as Genesis, Pink Floyd, Yes and Steve Hillage, was deeply unfashionable. Despite this their popularity grew, and their first hit "Garden Party" introduced the gaudily made-up, larger-than-life personality of Fish to a wider audience. Marillion, however, view singles with disdain, and claim their albums are the "ultimate statement". The band are all married or engaged, and live quietly in Aylesbury: "We're really boring and normal, to be honest."

FISH



Fish Born Derek William Dick in Dalkeith, Scotland. Wrings all his wordy, somewhat obscure lyrics from personal experience and regards himself as something of a poet; "I'm a collector of stories and a story teller." By turns amiable, argumentative, bombastic and emotional, he explains his dual personality thus: "Derek is very romantic. Fish is more of a *debauched* romantic."

EURYTHMICS

ANNIE LENNOX

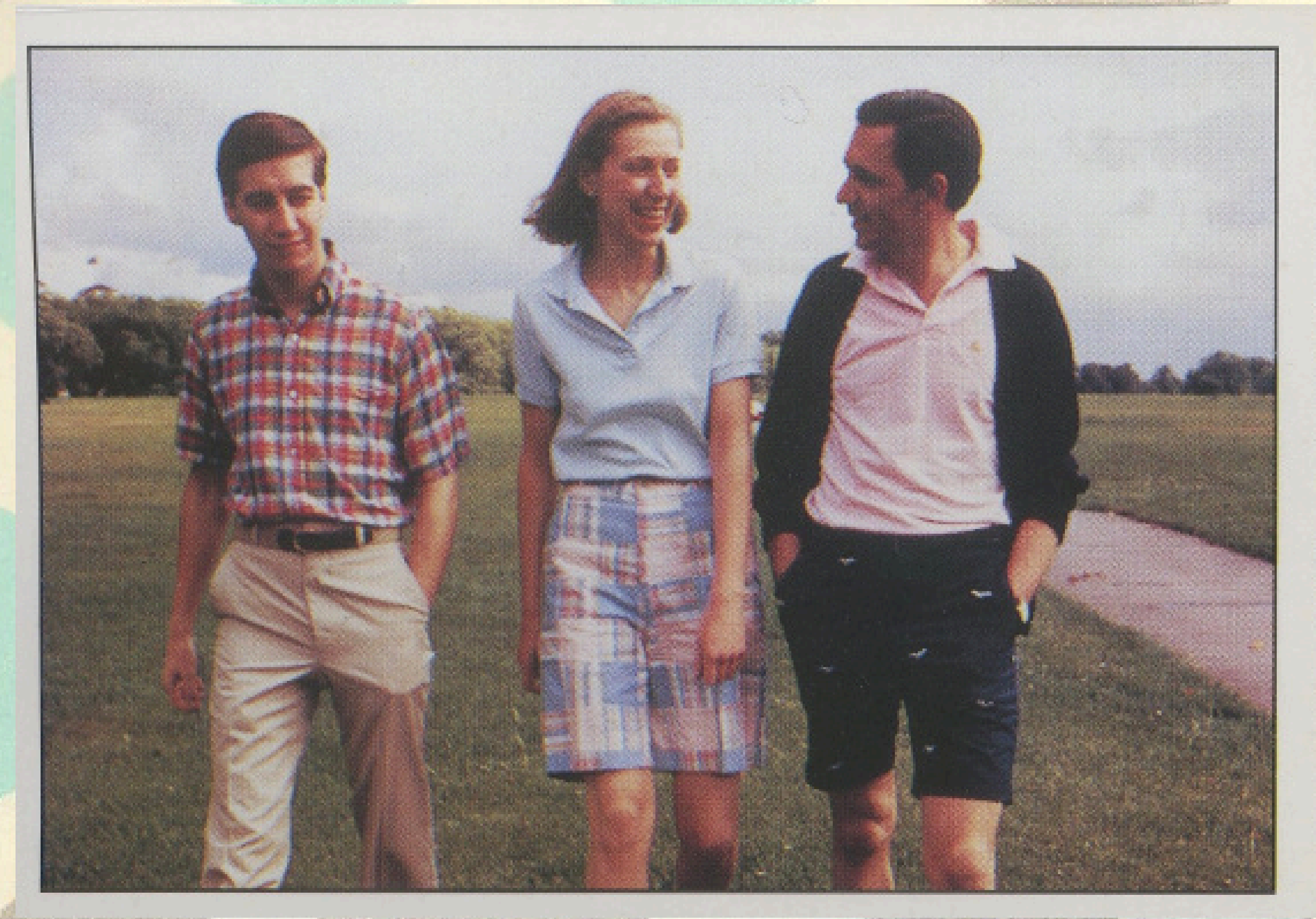
Eurythmics Dave Stewart (raised in Sunderland) spent some years plucking stringed instruments in hippie folk groups. Annie Lennox was brought up in Aberdeen and studied flute and harpsichord at the Royal Academy of Music. They fell in love and in 1977 helped form lightweight pop group The Tourists, splitting up in 1980. Annie and Dave fell out of love and formed synthesiser group Eurythmics (name taken from rhythmical body movements fashionable in the early 20th century) though recently their music has become more guitar-based. Dave Stewart has launched himself wholeheartedly into the American production jetset while Annie has bought a remote Swiss mountain retreat.





Annie Lennox Born 25/12/54. Deeply sensitive and artistic. In early days of Eurythmics wore long wig but more recently has adopted sterner masculine image (after wig came off at a concert to reveal short cropped hair). After whirlwind romance married Hare Krishna devotee, Rahda Raman, but split up 16 months later: "Sometimes people just develop at different rates."

DEXYS MIDNIGHT RUNNERS



Dexys Midnight Runners Formed in 1979 after mainspring Kevin Rowland left dreadful punk band The Killjoys. Uncompromising and bitter, but soon had No. 1 with brassy soul anthem "Geno". Group disintegrated and Kevin returned with new recruits, dungarees and violins to score another No. 1 "Come On Eileen". After three further years, reappeared with smart suits and strange meandering songs. Where to now?

BLANCMANGE



Blancmange Neil Arthur (tall, boisterous, went to college with Simon le Bon) from Darwen, Lancs, and Stephen Luscombe (small, fair, good at impersonating Nick Rhodes) from Uxbridge, London, met at Harrow art school. Stephen has a passion for trashy, Indian film music, Neil likes doodling and respected scientists agree that they're both completely bonkers.

THE CULT



■ **The Cult** Descended from Southern Death Cult (trendy independent Northern band), they got heavily into the '70s and loud guitars and crossed over into mainstream pop with "She Sells Sanctuary". Ian Astbury (vocals), Billy Duffy (guitar), Jamie Stewart (bass) and Les Warner (drums) describe their style as part "psychedelia, biker, Dickensian and Victorian".

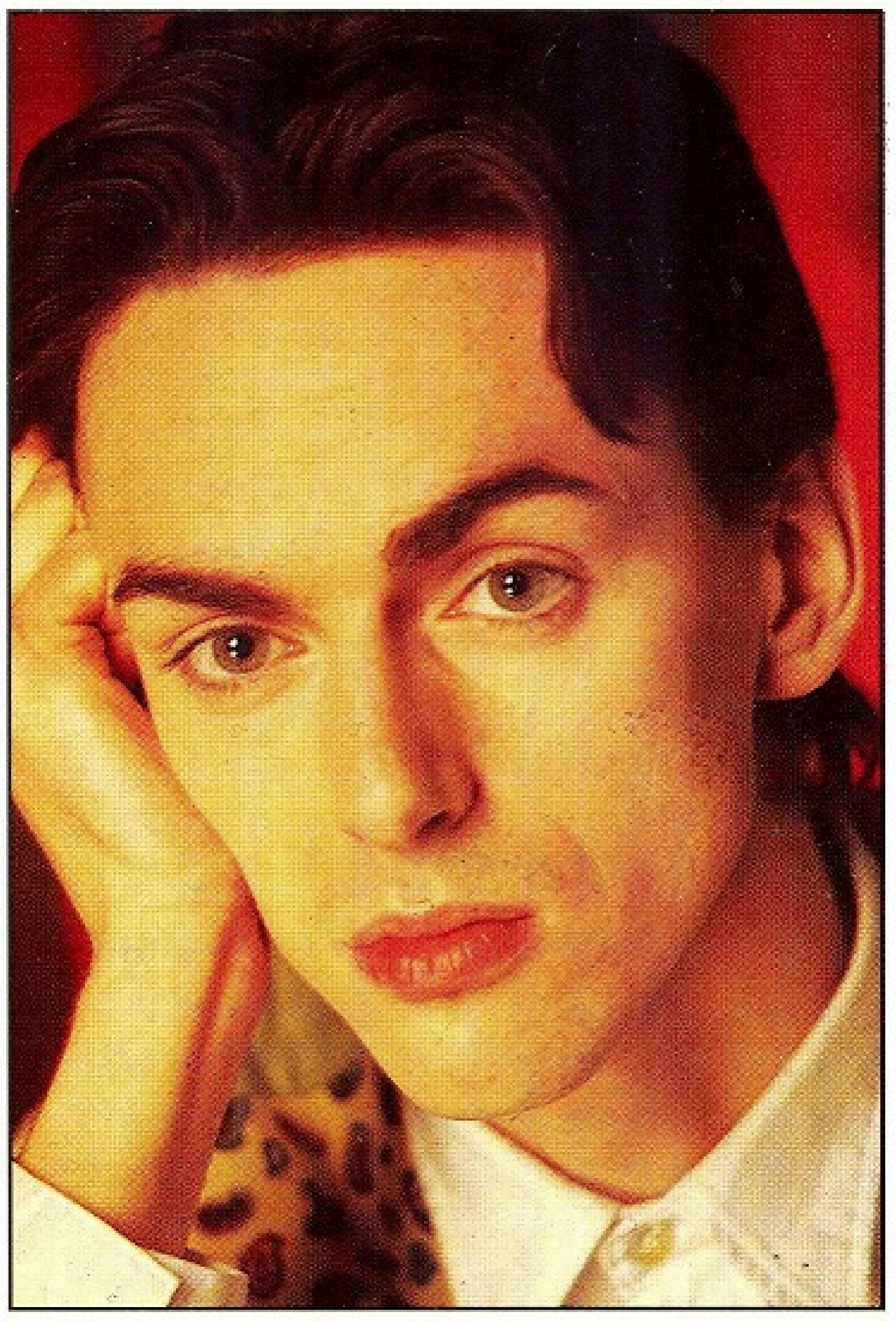
IAN ASTBURY



■ **Ian Astbury** Born 14/6/62. Joined the army at 17 – "brilliant, I thought, instant karma; go for it!" – but left only twenty-eight days later. Fronted the various Cults, and says he finds their image and his ideas relate to the North American Indians. Pioneered return of long hair, beads and paisley, and speaks in strange mixture of punk aggression and hippie philosophising.

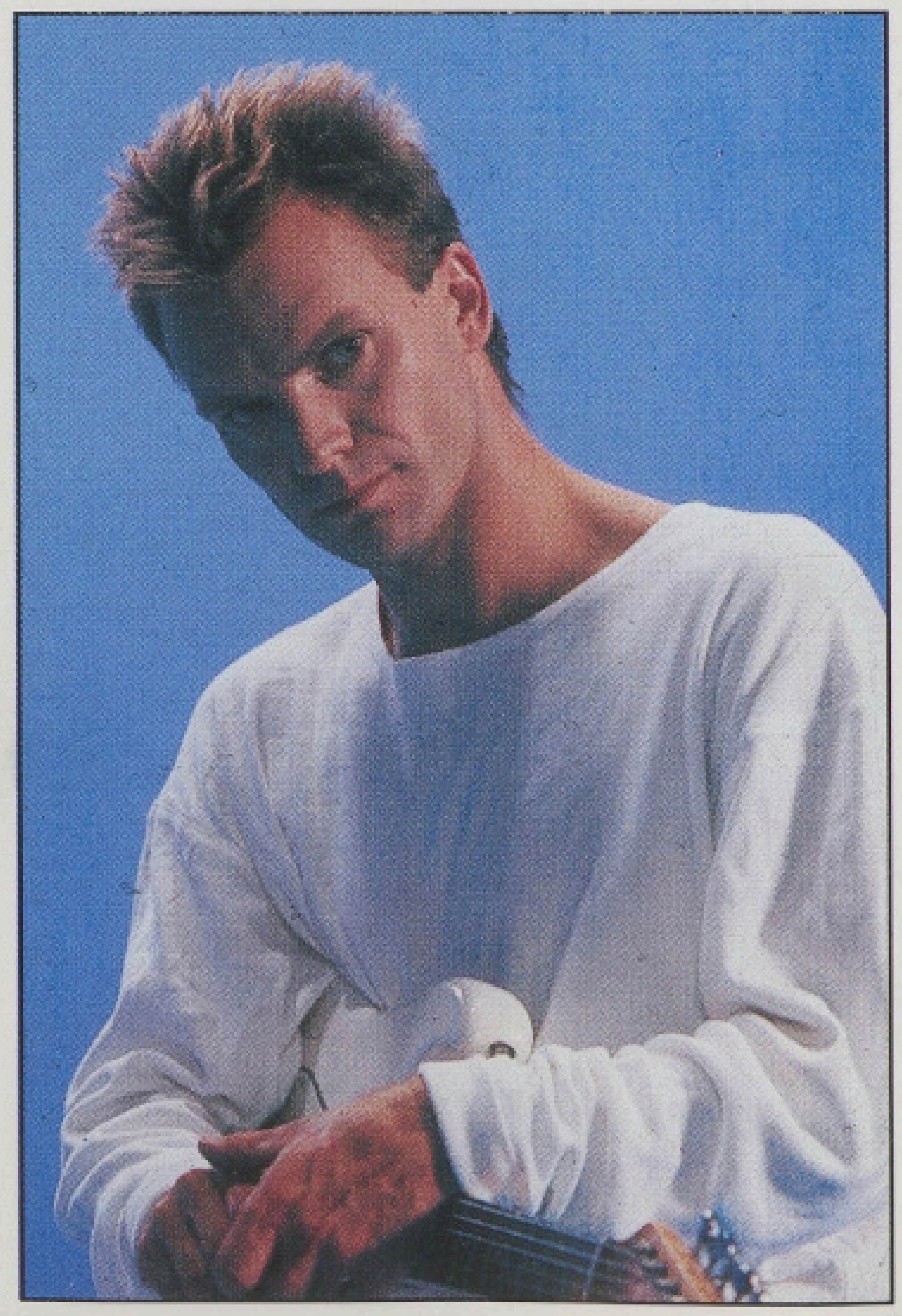
STEPHEN DUFFY

■ **Stephen Duffy** Born 30/5/60 in Birmingham. A founder member of Duran Duran, spent years achieving cult status as Tin Tin for "Kiss Me" single. Last year moved to London, re-recorded "Kiss Me" and had a Top 5 hit. When not writing slinky '60s pop, Stephen, a life member of the National Trust, can be found socialising with The Dream Academy or perusing his prized magazine collection.



STING

■ **Sting** Born Gordon Matthew Sumner 2/10/51. Former school teacher, recruited from jazz-rock band by Stewart Copeland to form The Police, whose enormous world-wide success was based on Sting's songs. Has recently concentrated on acting *(The Bride, Plenty)* and solo musical career with jazzier "Dream Of Blue Turtles" album. Still shrewd and caring individual.





KOOL AND THE GANG

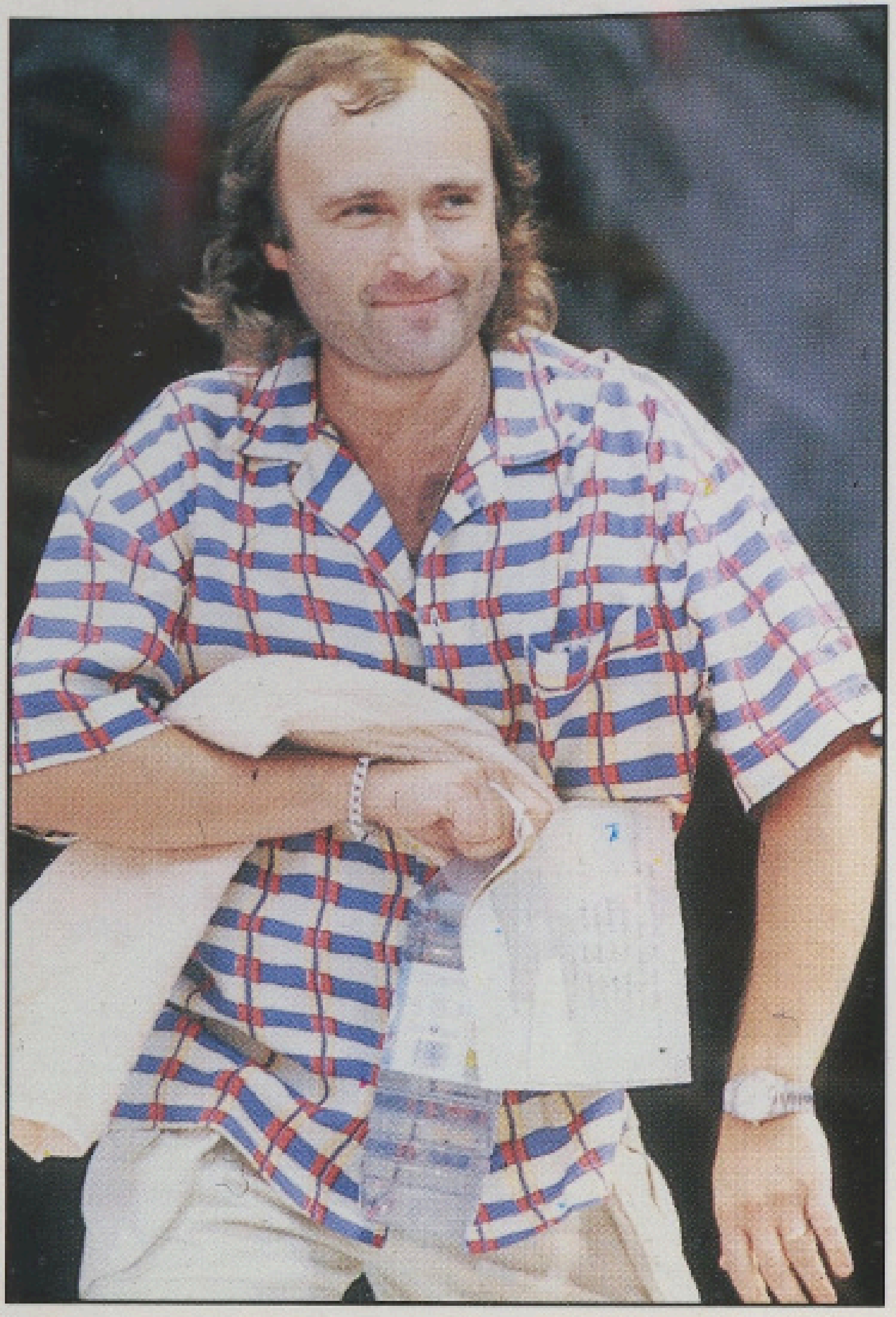
■ **Kool And The Gang** Formed in 1964 in Jersey City, New Jersey by 14 year old bassist Robert "Kool" Bell and brother Ronald as essentially rhythm and instrumental band. Singer James "JT" Taylor added much later as style changed to include vocal harmonies; incredibly consistent run of classy hits began in 1979 with "Ladies Night". Appeared on British Band Aid record.

PROPAGANDA



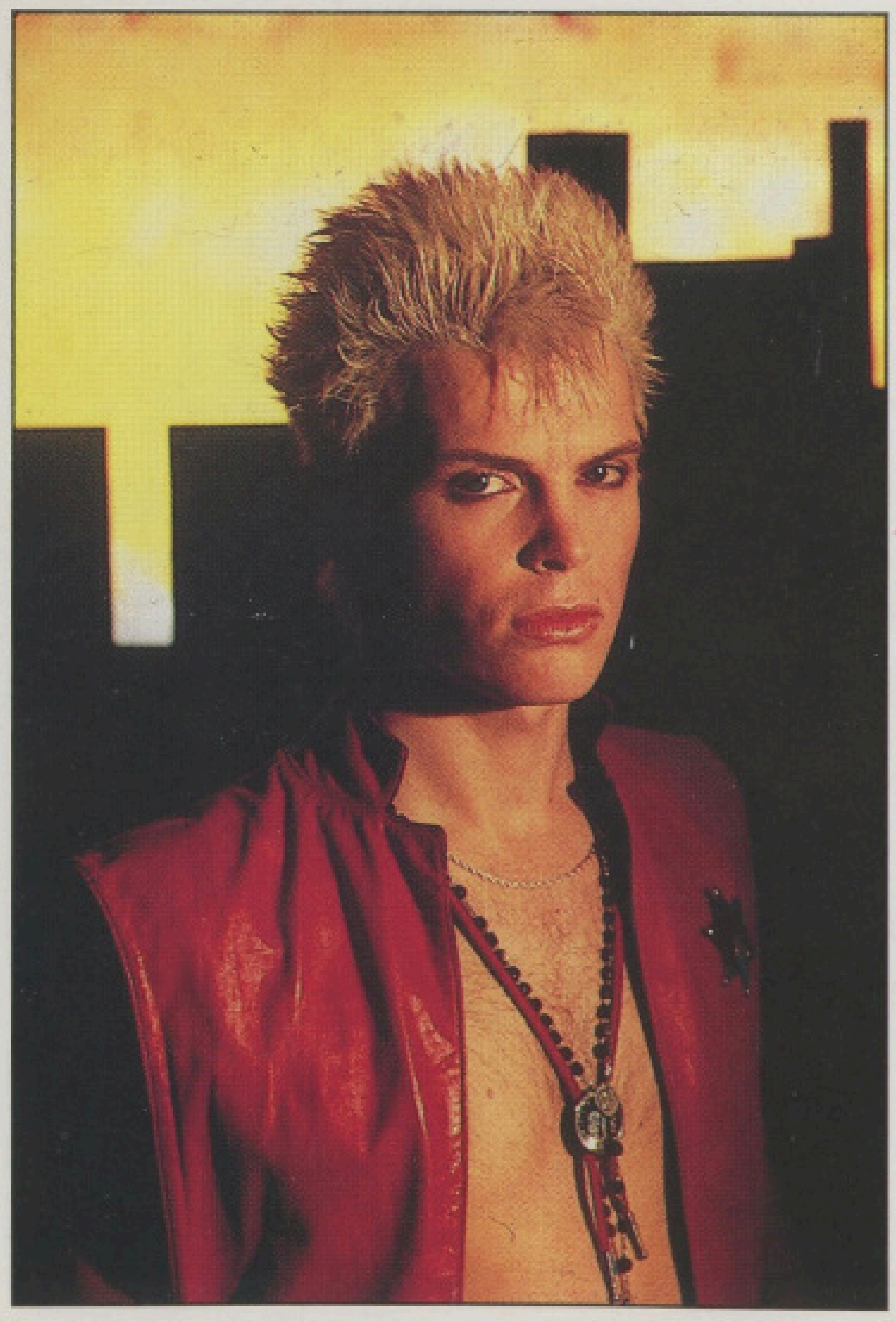
■ **Propaganda** Came from Germany in 1982 to give journalist Paul Morley cassette of their songs. When he helped form ZTT Records, they signed and had hit "Dr Mabuse". Members are Claudia Brucken (married to Morley, bites her nails), Susanne Freytag (professional jewellery maker, says she's lazy), Michael Mertens (percussionist with Dusseldorf Symphonia) and Ralf Dorper (works in a bank and talks too much).

PHIL COLLINS



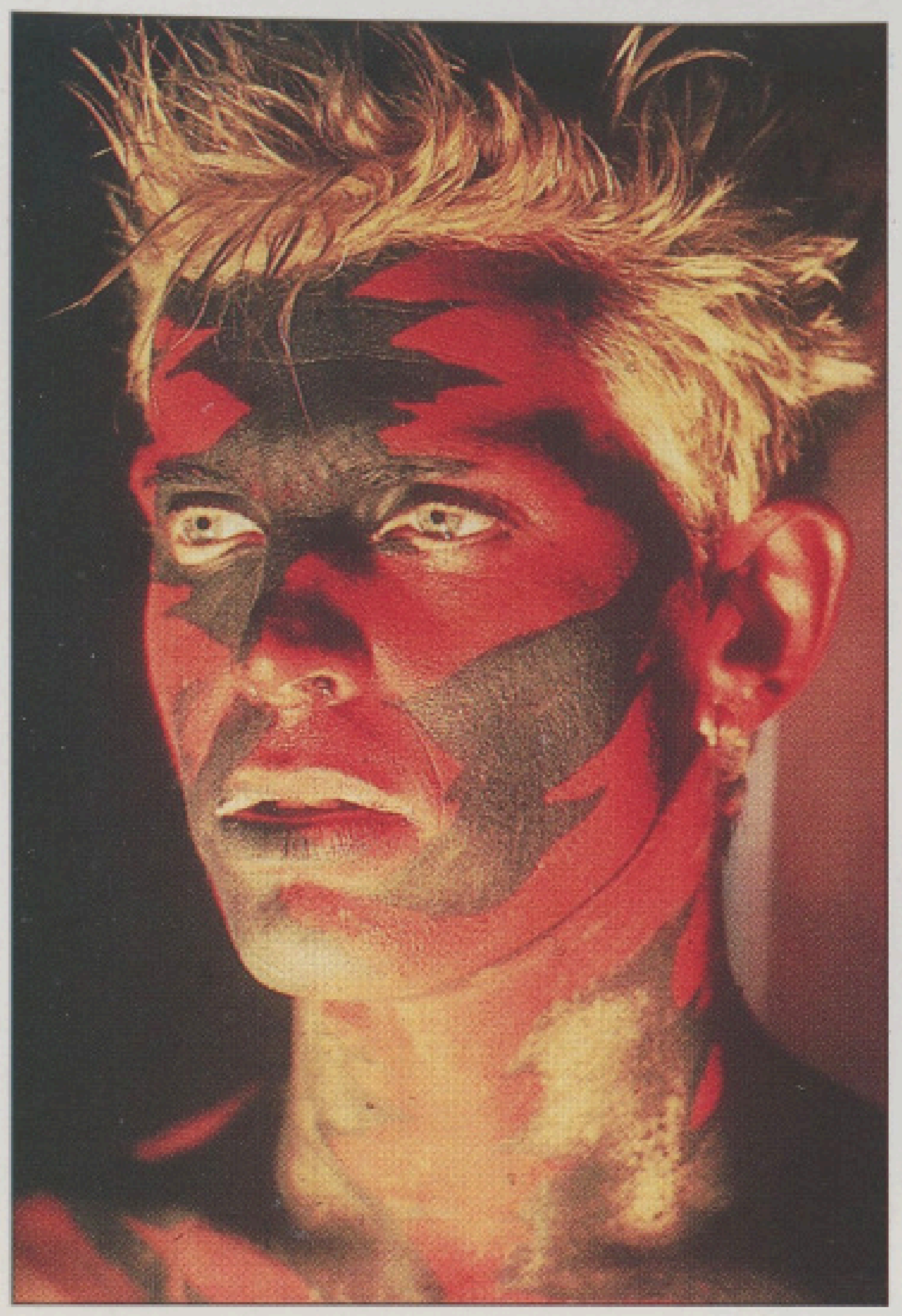
■ **Phil Collins** Born 30/1/51. Years after swopping his toy train set for a real drum kit, Phil Collins answered an ad and found himself in hippie group Genesis, first as drummer then drummer/singer. First solo success with "Face Value" LP. At Live Aid he played at both Philadelphia and Wembley, whizzing between the two on Concorde. Sells more records than any other British solo artist.

BILLY IDOL



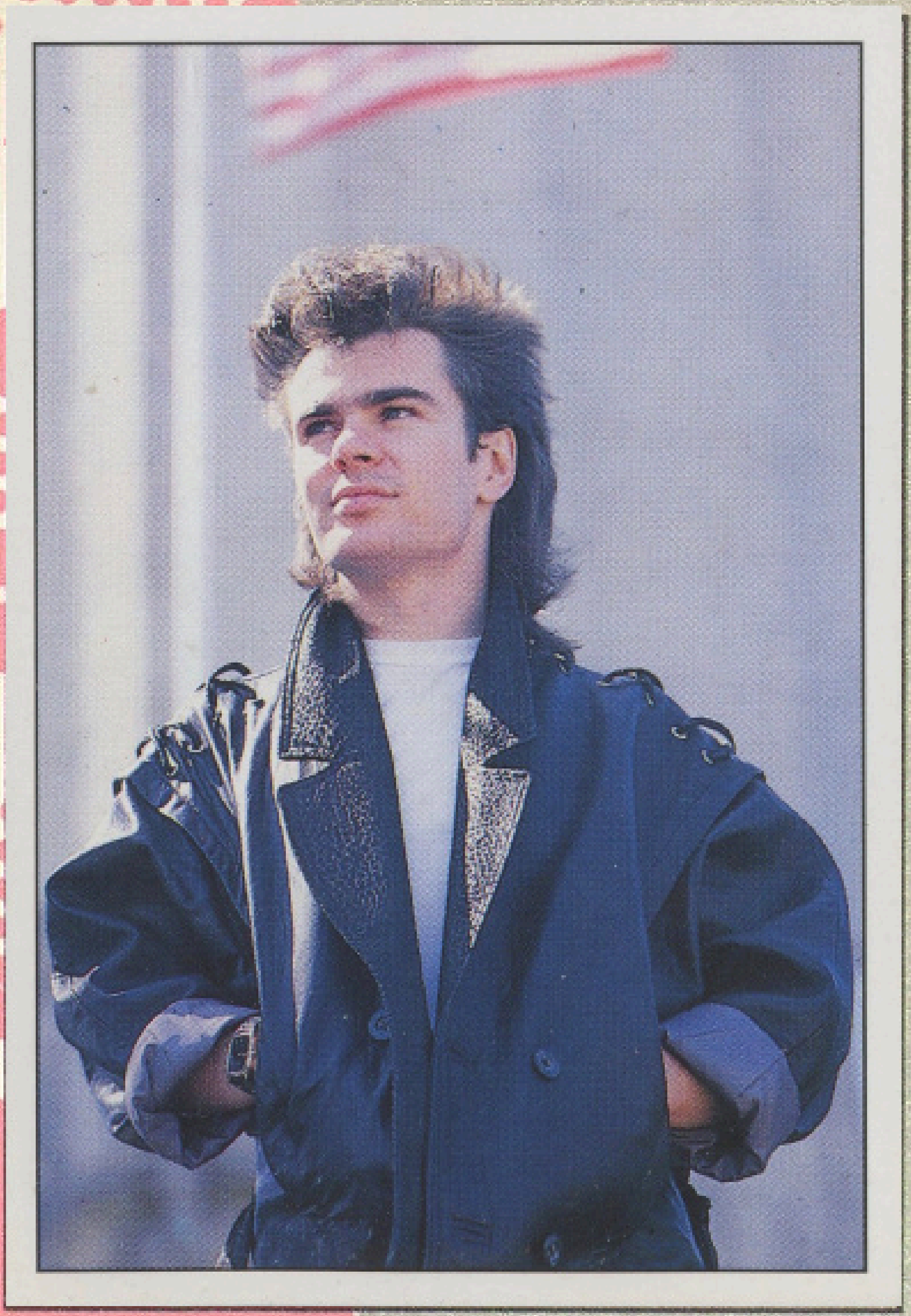
SHEILA ROCK

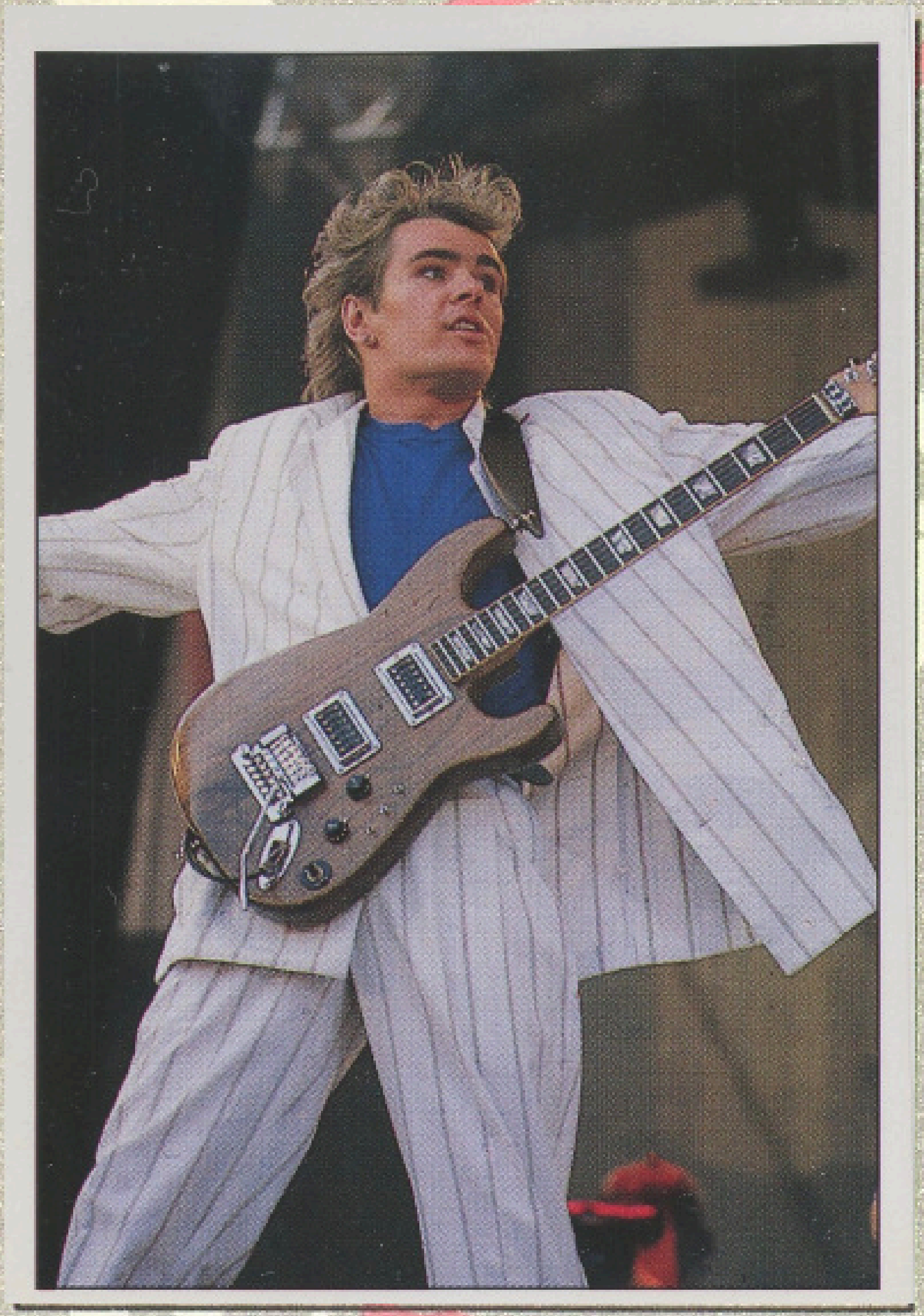
■ **Billy Idol** Born William Broad, 30/11/55. When he was ten Billy's grandfather bought him a Woolworth's guitar. Years later, while studying English at Sussex University, he put an ad in *Melody Maker* saying "I want to form a group". His band Generation X became one of the most well-known punk bands. After three LPs and 7 hit singles they split. Wanting a fresh start, Billy went to live in New York. Helped along by MTV he had his first solo hit "White Wedding", and he's now massive in the States. Madonna wants to make a record with him because, like her, he's "white and plastic". Strongly resents not being taken seriously; punching the air a lot and curling his lip he threatens "I see people laughing at rock 'n' roll but they will learn."



NIK KERSHAW

Nik Kershaw Born 1/3/58 in Bristol but spent majority of childhood in Ipswich. Semi-musical background – mum, Evelyn, trained as an opera singer and ran local choir while dad, Douglas was a flautist! Despite this Nik's childhood attempt at playing the violin was unsuccessful. Left school at 17 and after playing in very dodgy school band spent the next three years working for the Department of Employment. Whilst working there he joined local jazz-funk group Fusion, sporting a purple velvet suit and green satin shirt. It wasn't until 1984 that success finally arrived and Nik Kershaw the talented singer/songwriter hit the big time. Small, serious and sensible – Nik couldn't be described as the most exciting pop star around. A bit of a "muso", currently lives in North Essex with his wife Sheri (who's also in the band).





PAUL HARDCASTLE



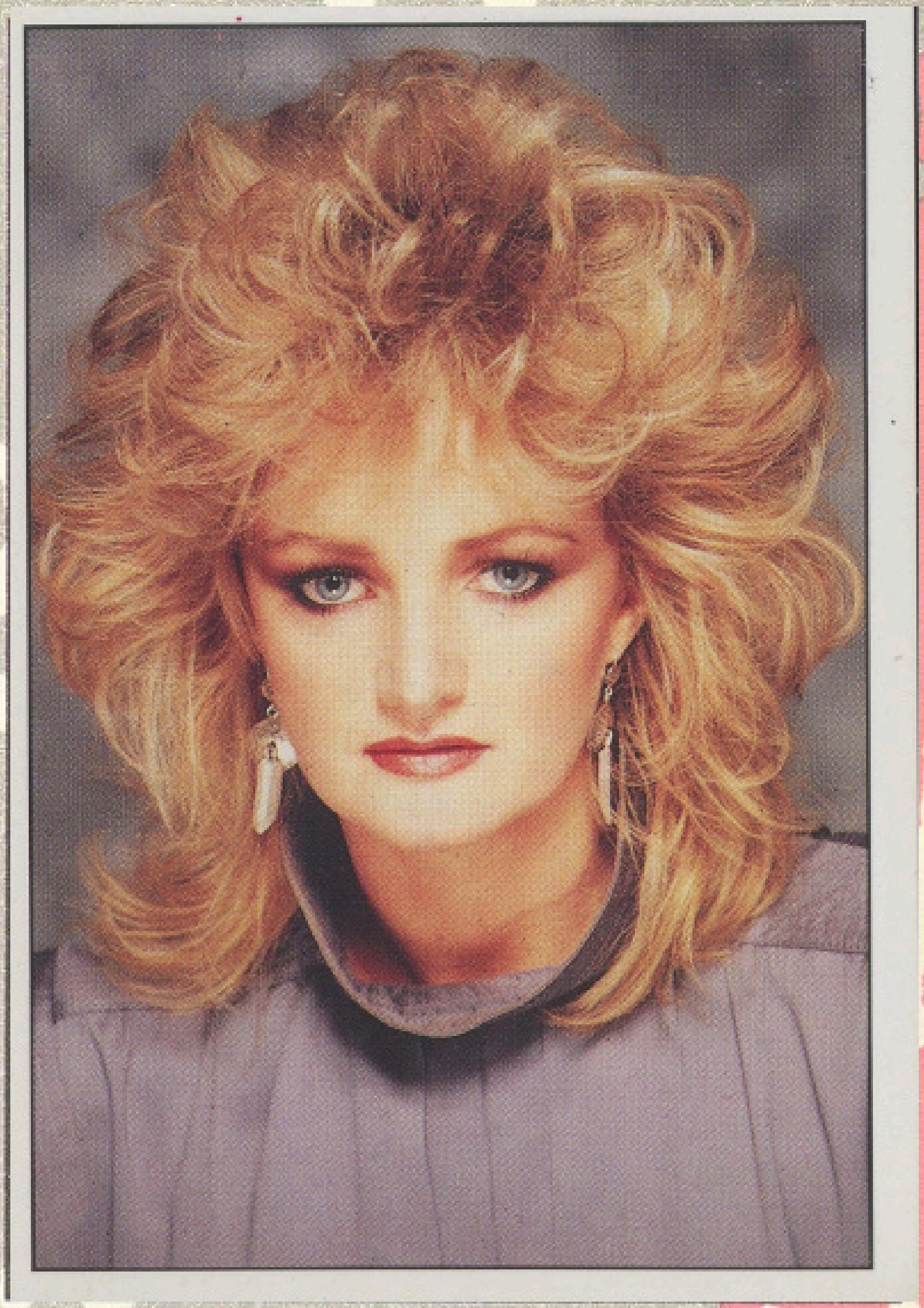
Paul Hardcastle Born 10/12/58. General electronics whizz-kid, worked in hi-fi shop and built home studio. Reached No. 41 three times with light funk records before "19" crashed into charts with startling mix of singing and speeches, stuttering and social comment on Vietnam war. Relatively quiet since apart from production and remixes, but married ex-hairdresser Dolores on her 19th birthday.

SIMPLY RED



Simply Red Formed in Manchester in 1983 from the ashes of two grim local independent bands. These days their music is altogether more polished and soulful, like their first hit single, a cover version of "Money's Too Tight To Mention". Angry young vocalist Mick "Red" Hucknall has strong views: "Rock music is finished. It's all over. It's dead wood."

BONNIE TYLER



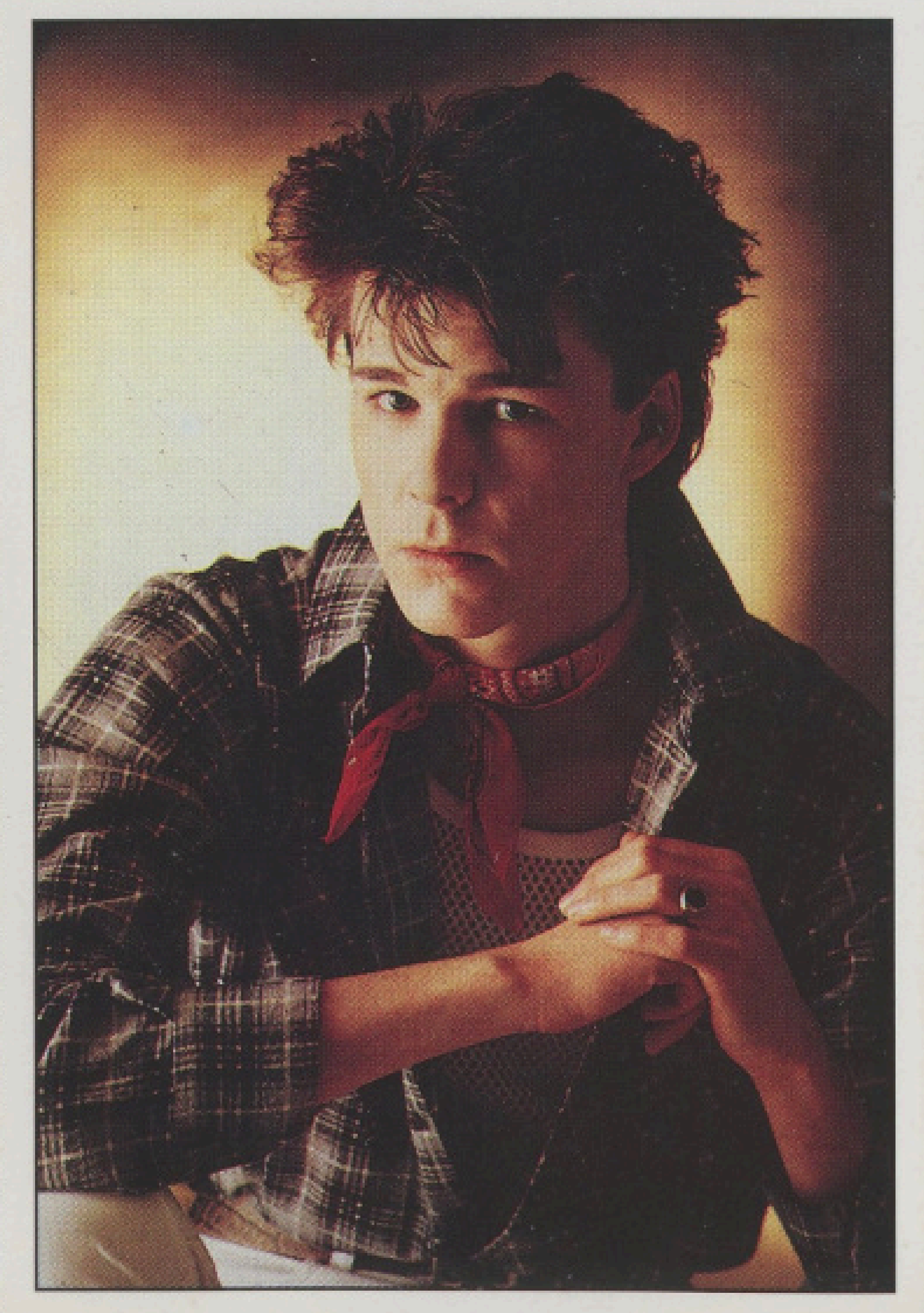
Bonnie Tyler Born 8/6/51. Housewife from Mumbles in Wales with voice like Rod Stewart, was discovered singing in local clubs. Three hits in '77, including "Lost In France". Surprise rescue from obscurity five years later by Meatloaf mastermind Jim Steinman to have No. 1 hit with "Total Eclipse Of The Heart". Last hit with "Holding Out For A Hero".

BIG COUNTRY



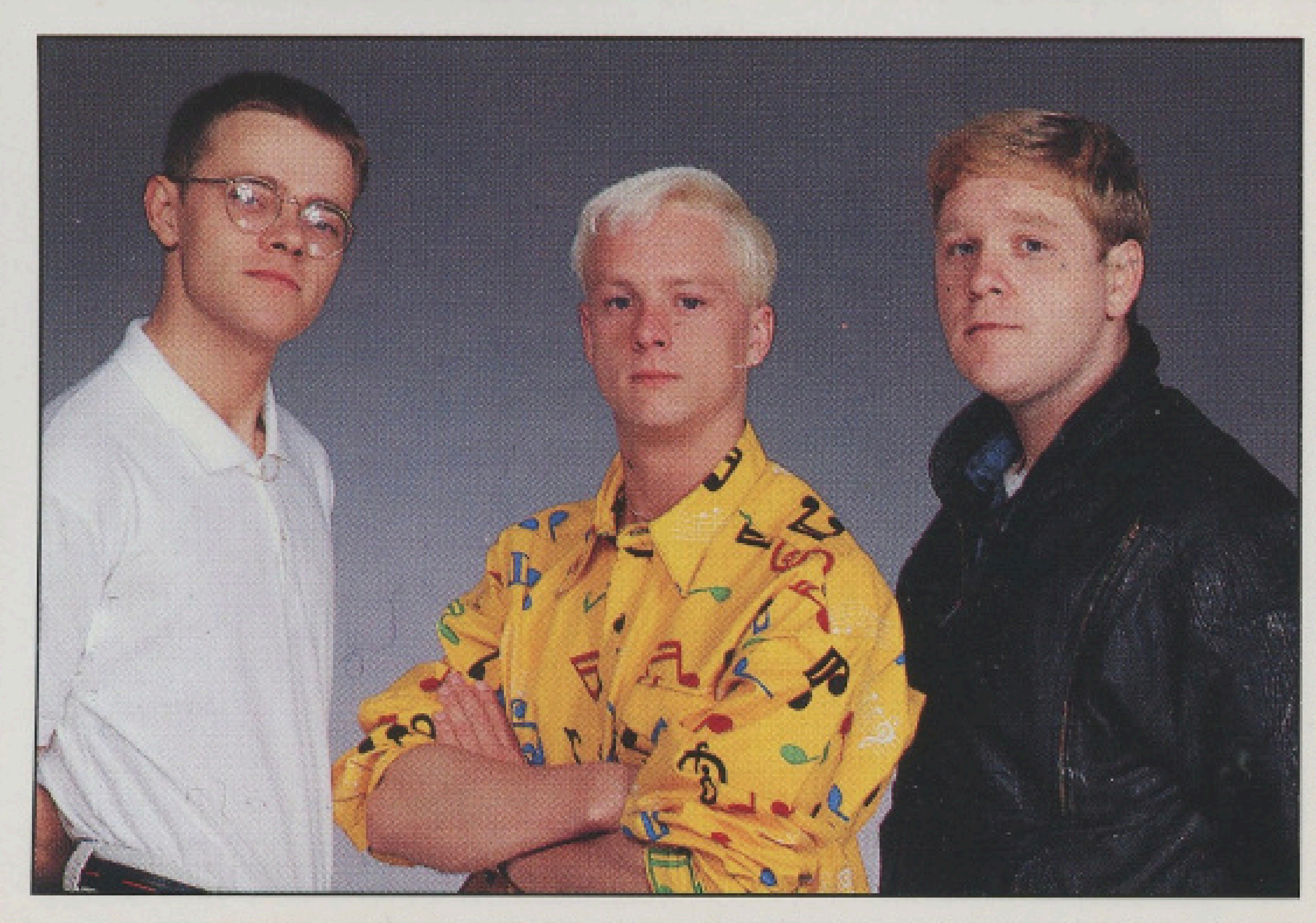
■ **Big Country** After leaving The Skids, Stuart Adamson immediately recruited guitarist Bruce Watson and together they wrote early songs beneath a snooker hall. Original drummer and bassist proved disastrous so employed session men Tony Butler (bass) and Mark Brzezicki (drums) (previously in On The Air) who'd supported The Skids on tour) who gelled so well that they joined permanently. Their powerful melodic music, characterised by Adamson's "bagpipe" guitar parts, fitted in perfectly with the anti-synthesiser rock revival of the early '80s and after second single "Fields Of Fire" reached Top 10, were hardly ever out of charts until 1985 when they were completely silent. All year rumours of a split swelled as Mark and Tony returned to session work but band reunited in December to perform in America and record their third LP.

STUART ADAMSON



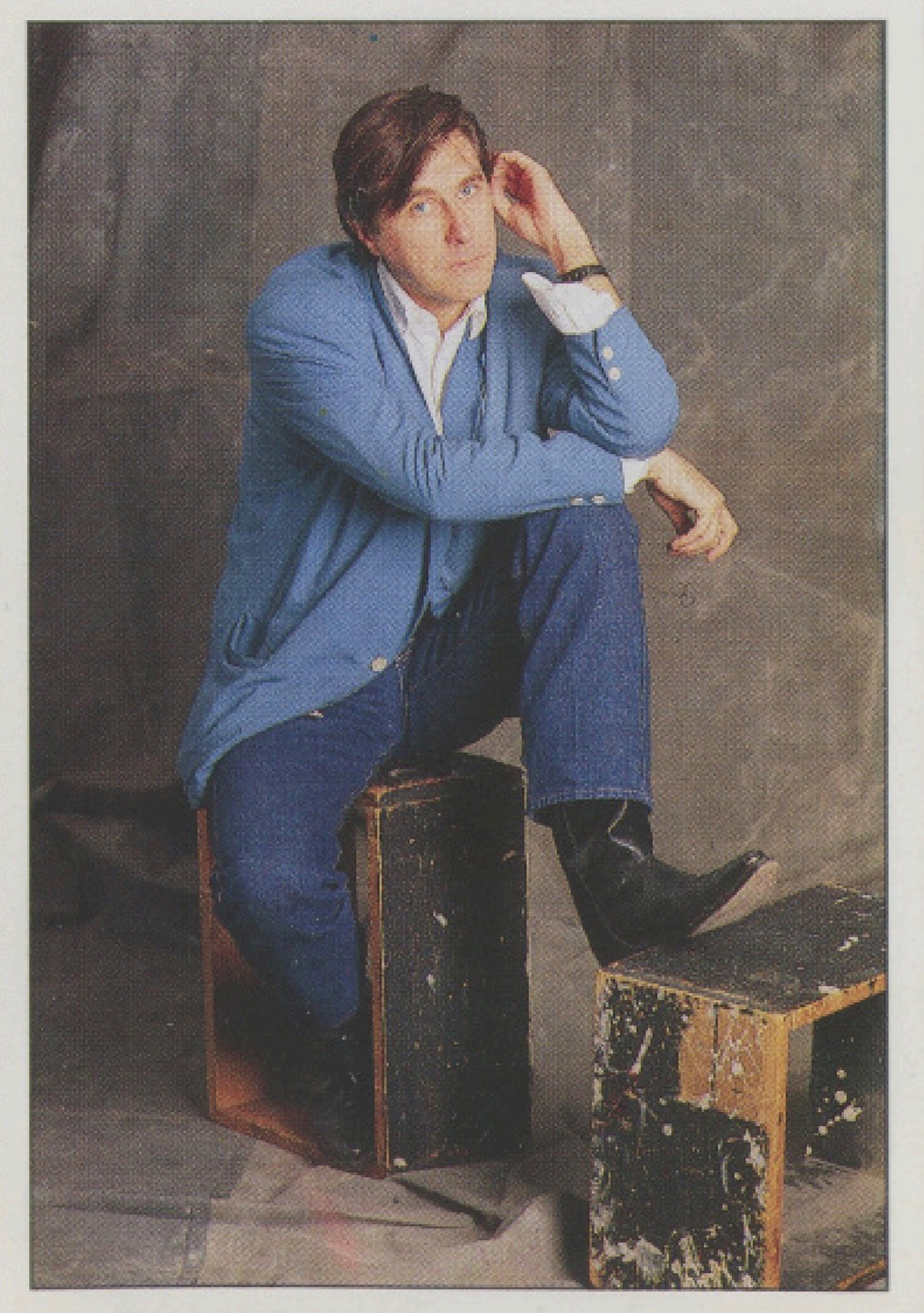
■ **Stuart Adamson** Born 11/4/58 in Manchester though raised in Fife, Scotland. Together with Richard Jobson (now in The Armoury Show) was creative core of punk-pop band The Skids until he left in Spring 1981. Idealistic and proud, Adamson shuns the pop star world, preferring to stay home with his wife Sandra and son Callum.

BRONSKI BEAT



■ **Bronski Beat** Formed in 1984, their combination of hi-energy synths, soaring choirboy vocals and gay pride lyrics was an instant success. Singer Jimmy Somerville left in early '85 in a bitter, prolonged musical and political split and was replaced by John Foster, an old Southend friend of founder members Larry Steinbachek and Steve Bronski.

BRYAN FERRY



■ **Bryan Ferry** Born 26/9/45. Founder member of Roxy Music, original glam-rock pioneers of the '70s. These days has a smooth, suave image and a successful solo career. The son of a Durham miner, his lifestyle now echoes the glamour of his lyrics; he's married to a member of the aristocracy and lives in a country manor. "But," he worries, "am I still relevant?"



THE ALARM

■ **The Alarm** From Rhyl in North Wales, childhood pals Mike Peters and Eddie MacDonald met Dave Sharp and Nigel Twist to form group in summer '81. Took name from first song they wrote, "Alarm Alarm". Success after supporting U2. In '85 concentrated on US but had UK hit with "Absolute Reality". Despite claims they only write shoddy anthems, still maintain loyal following.

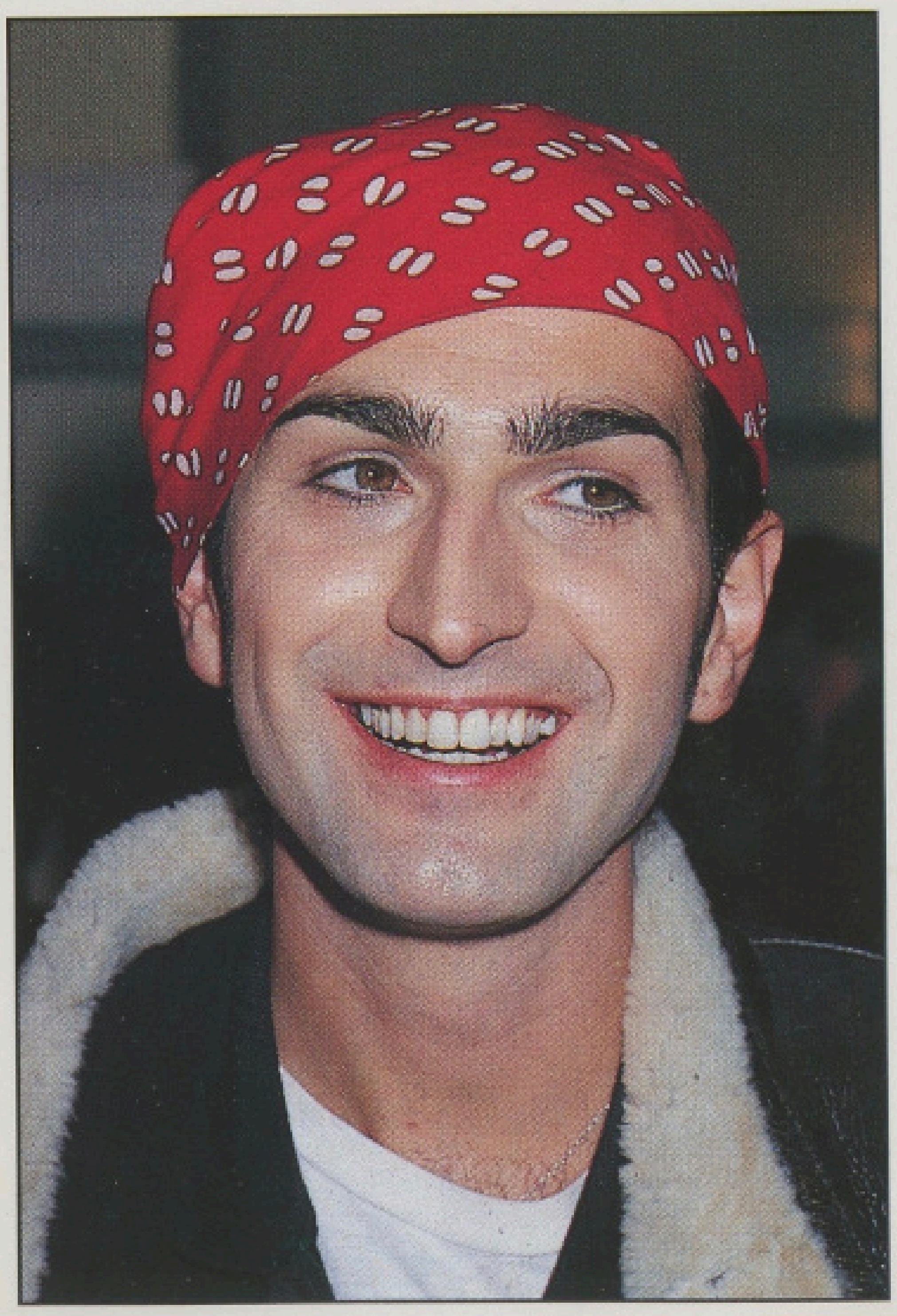
KING





King After failure of his previous band Reluctant Stereotypes, Paul King recruited Jim ''Jackal'' Lantsbery (guitar), Tony Wall (bass) and Mick Roberts (keyboards) to form King, finally hitting with re-released ''Love and Pride''. ''King,'' says Paul, ''have glitter, have glamour. . . they are entertainment with a big E''. They also have paint-sprayed Doctor Marten boots and talk a lot about dolphins.

PAUL KING



Paul King Born 20/11/61, Galway (Eire) but family moved to Coventry when Paul was 6 months old. Has 9 'O' Levels. Previous jobs include dressing as monk and jester at medieval banquet hall; also police cadet. Beefed up for last winter tour with same martial arts instructor who turned Sylvester Stallone into Rambo.

DIVINE



RETNA/IAN HOOTON

Divine Born in October 1945, Baltimore, USA. A self-confessed ''cartoon character'', ''Divvy'' has been a female impersonator for over 20 years. Originally gained ''cult'' status through a series of very weird films. These days better known for his outrageously camp hi-energy records. Owns two English bulldogs called Klaus and Beatrix and a cat named Theodore.

DEAD OR ALIVE



Dead Or Alive After forming Nightmares in Wax with intention of being "worst band in the world", Pete Burns (only ever-present member) has slowly steered band from gloomy cavernous dirges to witty, infectious hi-energy pop. After false start with compromise cover of KC & Sunshine Band's "That's The Way (I Like It)", finally succeeded on own terms with "You Spin Me Round".

PETE BURNS

Pete Burns Born 5/8/59 into German-speaking family. Always outrageous in looks and humour with knack of hitting others' weak-spots but deadpan Liverpudlian humour doesn't translate into print hence bitchy reputation. As a kid dressed in mum's stiletto boots to mime to Nancy Sinatra. Used to work in record shop with wife Lynn. Genuinely hates Boy George but loves Morrissey and The Smiths.



ABC



ABC The brains behind ABC is Martin Fry, a talkative English literature graduate and pop theoriser from Sheffield. The group had phenomenal success in the early '80s with their classic "Lexicon Of Love" LP (produced by Trevor Horn), but then faded badly. Made a come-back in 1985 with different line-up and new "cartoon" image, but only moderately successful.

OMD



OMD After heavy touring to promote "Junk Culture" LP and more colourful image, Paul Humphreys quit band but within days had rejoined central partner Andy McCluskey. After break recorded excellent "Crush" LP and released video on its making with drummer Malcolm Holmes' ad-libs stealing the show. Hits proved hard to come by, although at last making headway in America.

AZTEC CAMERA



Aztec Camera Accomplished guitarist Roddy Frame (born 29/1/64) formed the group while still at school in East Kilbride. His sensitive lyrics and gripping melodies earned their first album "High Land Hard Rain" "classic" status; the follow-up, "Knife", was less remarkable, and the group have been in hibernation for most of 1985 while Roddy has been writing at his cottage near Stockport.

SIMPLE MINDS



■ **Simple Minds** Jim Kerr, Charlie Burchill and original drummer Brian McGee met at school in Glasgow in 1973. In 1977 formed derivative punk group Johnny & The Self Abusers who had, by early 1978, metamorphised into Simple Minds. First LP, Bowie-esque pop, and second, doomy synthesiser experiments, largely ignored. Third, ''Empires and Dance'', Euro-disco travelogues, was better-received and after much touring had first hit, ''Promised You A Miracle''. Line-up now is Kerr (singer), Burchill (guitarist), Michael MacNeil (keyboards), Mel Gaynor (drums) and John Giblin (bass). Last year had biggest hit so far with a song written for them, ''(Don't You) Forget About Me'' from the film *The Breakfast Club* but Kerr reckons that's only the beginning. ''Our music will become so big it can't be stopped.''

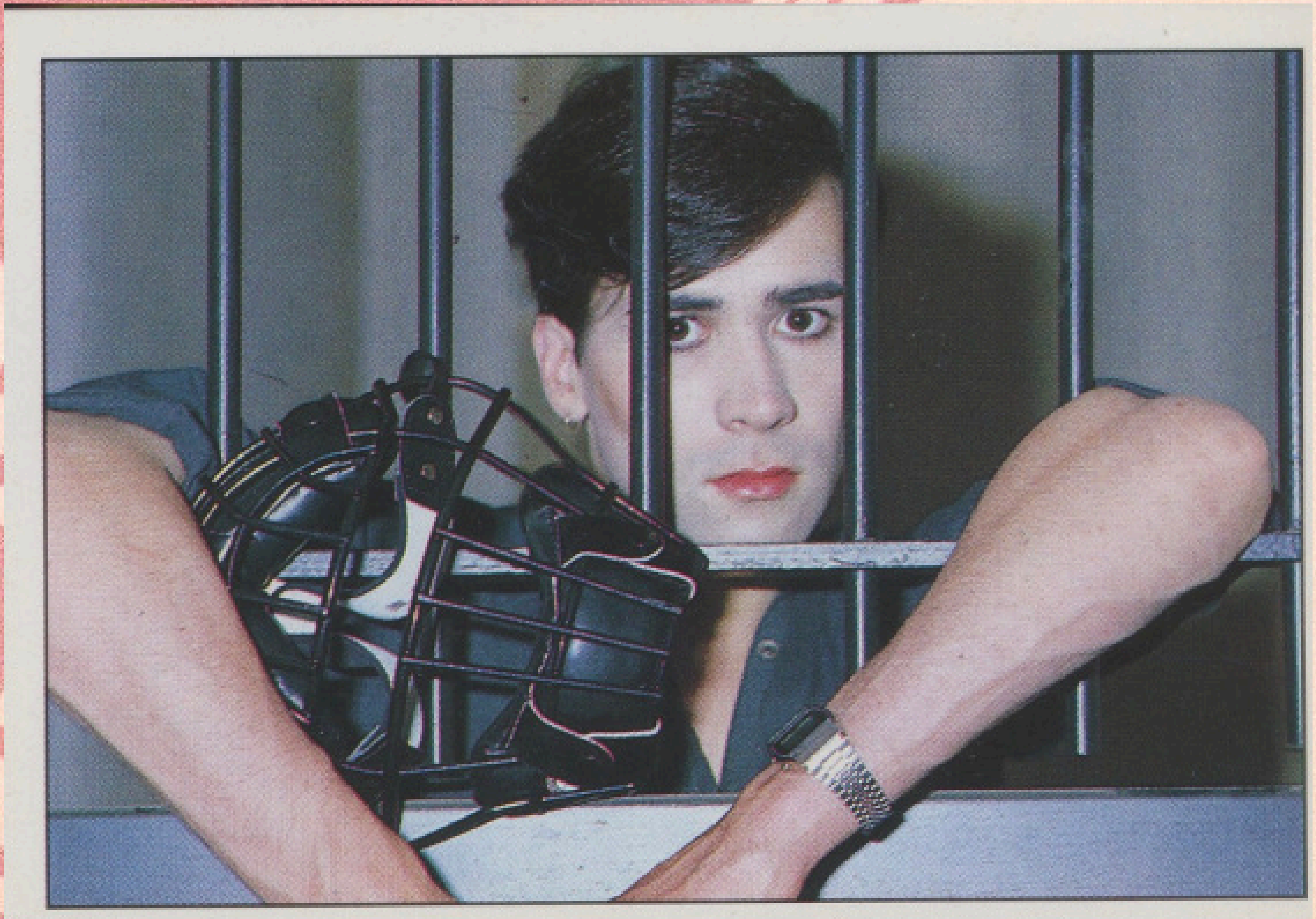


VIRGIN RECORDS

JIM KERR



■ **Jim Kerr** Born 9/7/59. Before first band was apprentice engineer. Responsible a couple of years back for band's move towards more forceful ''rock'' sound under influence of U2 – describes Bono, who he's even had to stay with him over New Year in Scotland, as ''the one person I most respect in music''. Is married to Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders – they have a daughter.



PHILIP OAKEY

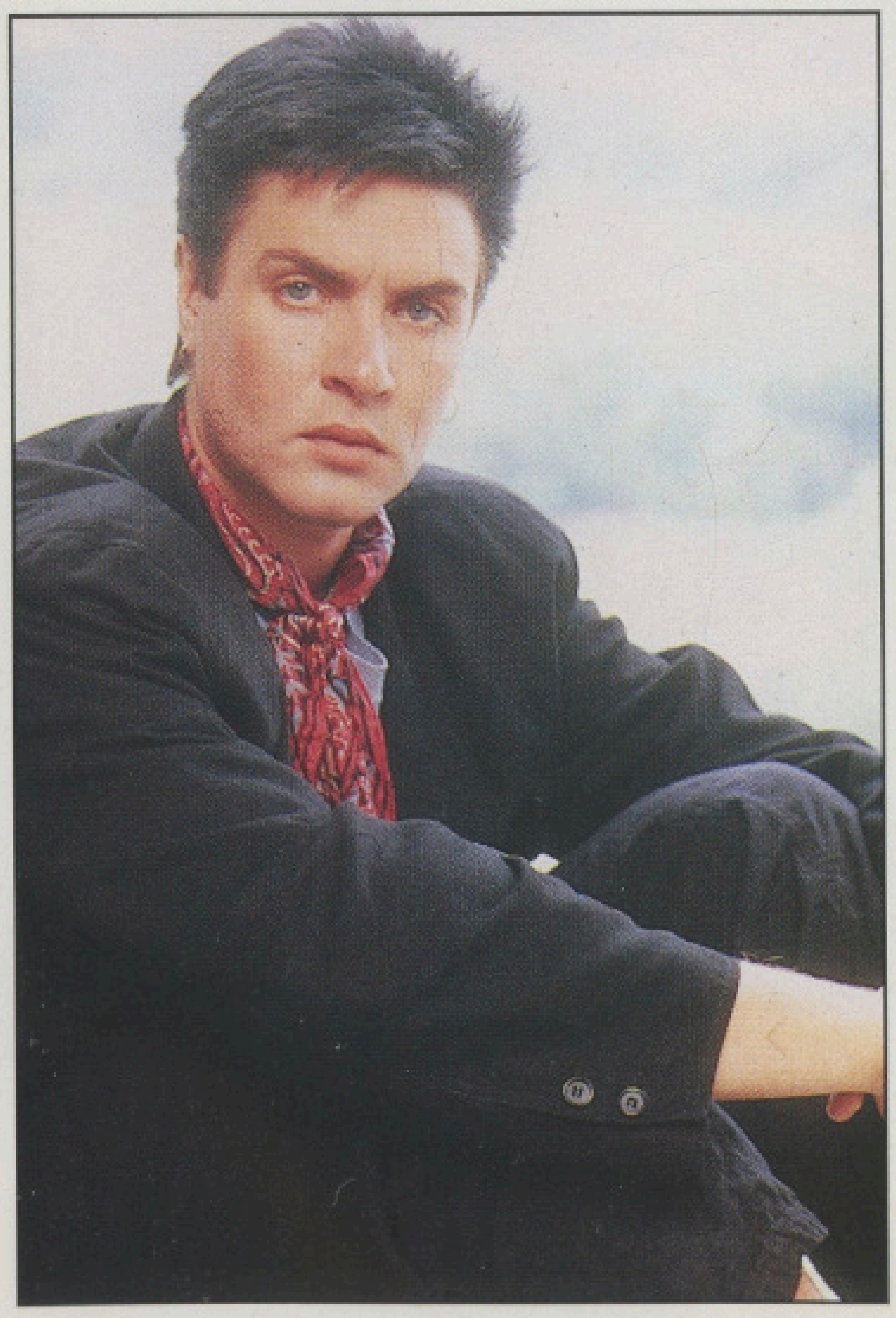
■ **Philip Oakey** Born 2/10/55. Joined The Human League in '77 as singer. After departure of Ware and Marsh to H17, restructured band and had hugely successful LP ''Dare'' though ''Hysteria'' follow-up much less remarkable. Recent parallel career with solo hits after teaming up with Georgio Moroder. Lives with Joanne in Sheffield with cat called Dribble and hamster, Geoff.



DURAN DURAN

■ **Duran Duran** The past 12 months have seen little let-up in Duran Duran activities. With legendary film music composer John Barry they recorded the title song for the Bond movie *A View To A Kill*. Released on video was the long-awaited *Arena* film (featuring live footage shot in Birmingham and San Francisco, and "conceptual" linking scenes with actor Milo O'Shea who played the original character Duran Duran in the film *Barbarella*). There was some increasingly public internal friction, however – partly about management (John Taylor and Roger Taylor now have different management) and partly about individual activities, especially Simon le Bon's yachting adventures ("It's O.K. to do it on a Sunday afternoon but that's about it" – John Taylor) – all resulting in what JT called the "Big Chill" for a couple of months. The future? According to Roger: "With these LPs we've vented our frustrations and are much healthier for it. Duran Duran will benefit from it in the long run."

SIMON LE BON



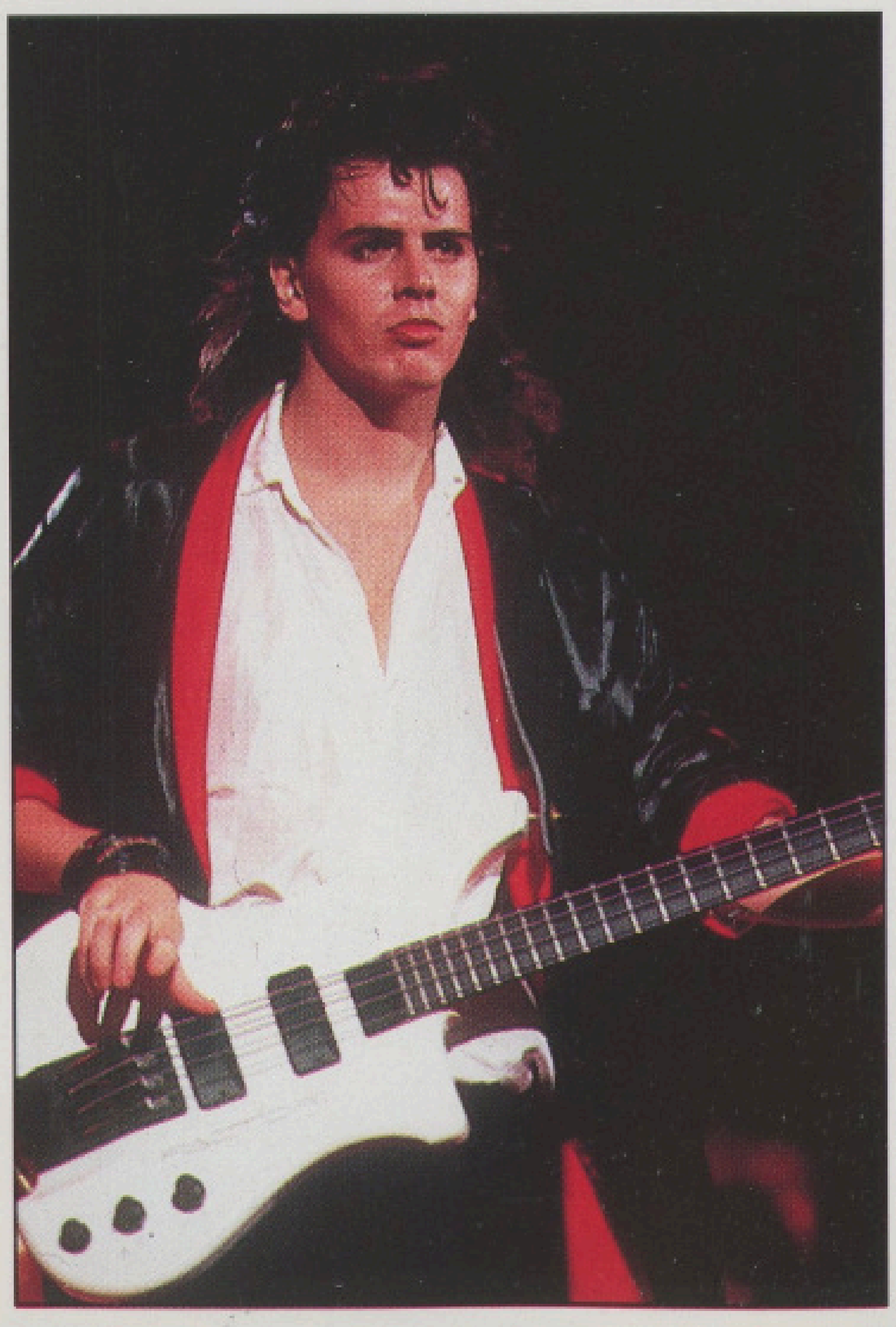
■ **Simon le Bon** Born 27/10/58. Main events of '85 for "Charlie" were a new girlfriend/wife (model Yasmin "Pebbles" Parvaneh), a new haircut (black, cropped and costing £396.50) and a sudden enthusiasm for the RNLI following the well-publicised sinking of *Drum* and attendant diving rescue on the last leg of the Fastnet Race. Undeterred, he'll be trying again this year.

ANDY TAYLOR



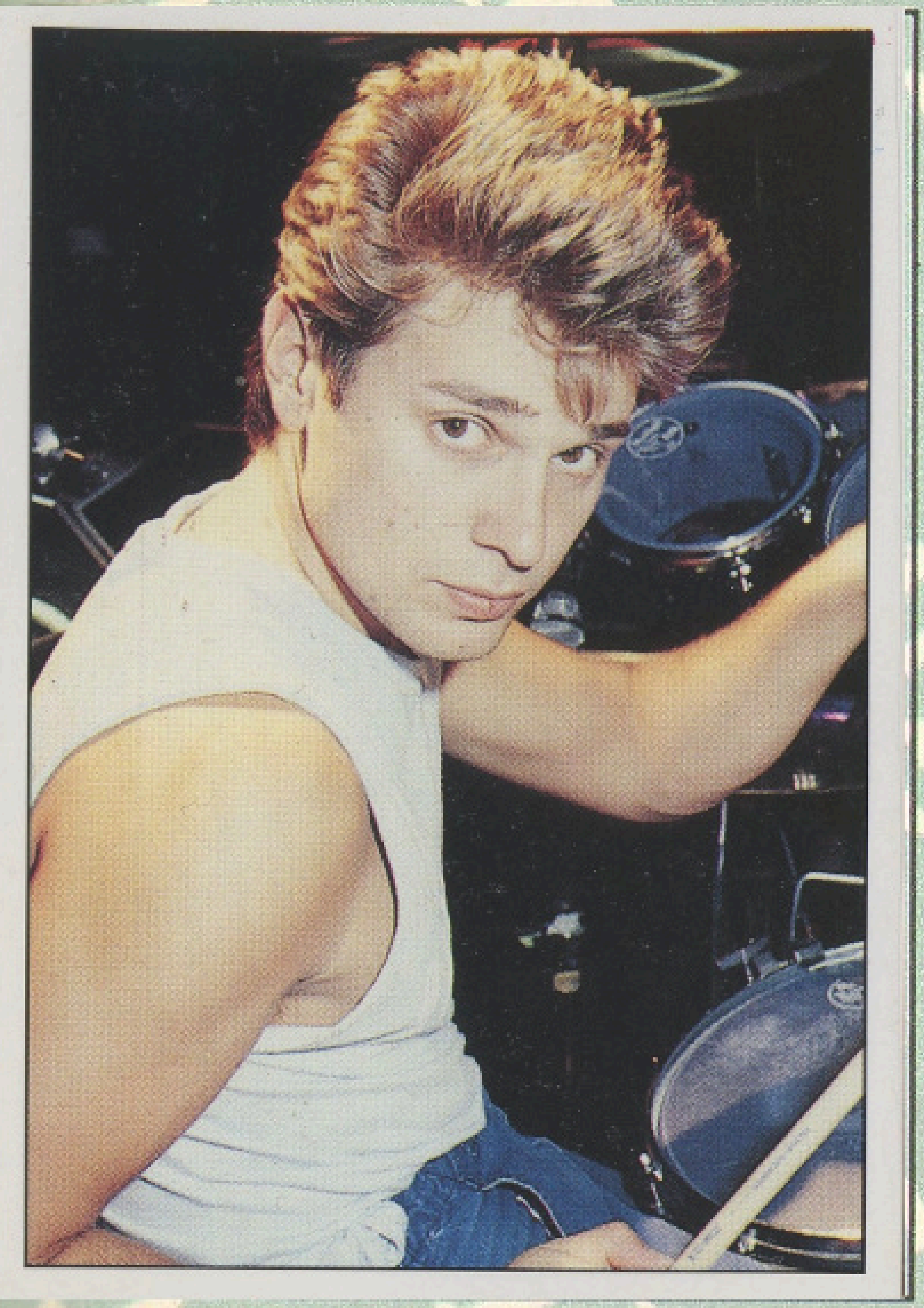
■ **Andy Taylor** Born 16/2/62. Biggest thing in '85 for Andy was The Power Station's LP and tour – he got to sing "Harvest For The World" – plus their contributing some music for bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger's new film *Commando*. Andy also produced an album by *Miami Vice* star Don Johnson which led to Andy and John joining the growing list of rock stars appearing on that show.

JOHN TAYLOR



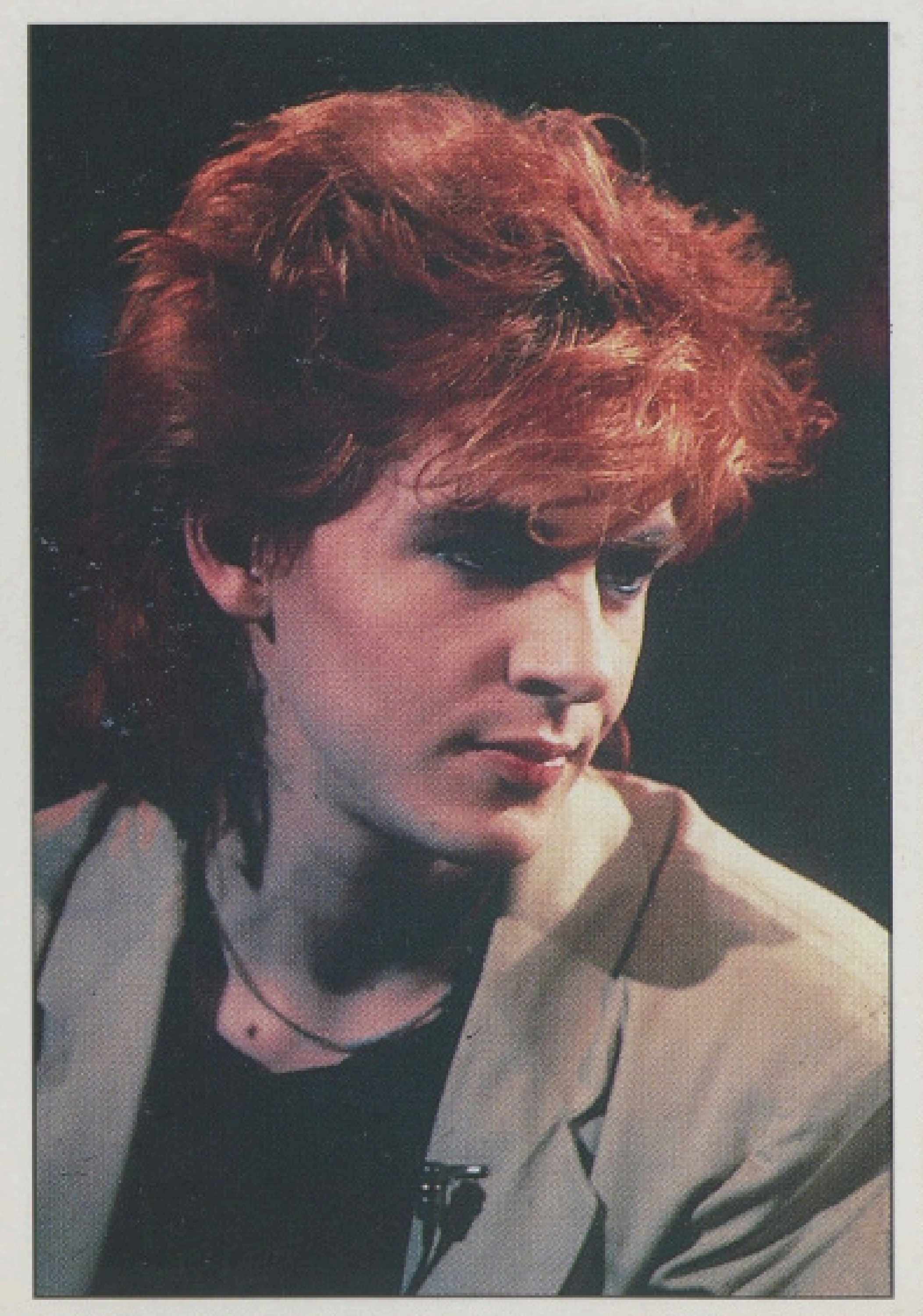
■ **John Taylor** Born 20/6/60. Over the last year JT has acquired a new steady girlfriend (Danish model Renee Simonsen), a new flat in New York (next door to Boy George), a new music writing partner (Jon Elias, for the film *9½ Weeks*) and a more mature attitude – "I'm much more into the artistry of what I'm doing now than the pose-istry," he says.

ROGER TAYLOR



■ **Roger Taylor** Born 26/4/60. Involved in both The Power Station and Arcadia – "The Power Station are so good because they're just straightforward, powerful rock music, whereas Arcadia have refined the more esoteric, atmospheric element of Duran Duran" – the strain of it all proved too much for the hitherto unshakeable drummer who had to retire for a health restoring rest.

NICK RHODES



■ **Nick Rhodes** Born 8/6/62. Highlight of '85 for Nicholas James Bates was undoubtedly playing a broom on a Power Station encore in New York. Why? "Because he can play it in tune," according to John Taylor. That aside, Nick was preparing another book of Polaroids, working on his rough film script and generally being Artist About Town.



THE POWER STATION

■ **The Power Station** Starting life as Chic drummer Tony Thompson's solo project, The Power Station got taken over by John Taylor's dream of crossing Chic with the Sex Pistols to record T Rex's "Get It On". Vocalist Robert Palmer (whom John and Andy Taylor had met at Duran's Mencap concert) quit two days before their US tour to be replaced by Michael Des Barres. Further changes are likely.

ARCADIA

■ **Arcadia** Recorded over six months in Paris, "So Red The Rose" started out as Simon and Nick's joint side-venture before Roger was enlisted. "Next to ocean racing," ventured Simon, "writing songs is the most interesting thing to do, especially with Nick and Roger who are very open-minded about music." Herbie Hancock, Sting and Roxy Music saxophonist Andy Mackay also appeared on the LP.



RETNA/MIKE PUTLAND



IRON MAIDEN

Iron Maiden Heavy metal band formed by bass player Steve Harris in mid-'70s. Named after medieval torture device and famous for their "mascot" monster Eddie. Though they have the obligatory long hair and tattoos, the five of them are basically softies – they sniffle during *Lassie* films, are Wham! fans and like nothing better than a nice cup of tea.

SADE

Sade Born Sade Adu in Nigeria, 16/1/60. Moved to Clacton on Sea and frequented London club scene with likes of Spandau Ballet and Animal Nightlife. Shot to stardom last year with immensely successful "Diamond Life" LP, topping both British and American charts with cool, jazzy sophistication. Fond of tequila, her '50s customised car and backless dresses.



GARY NUMAN



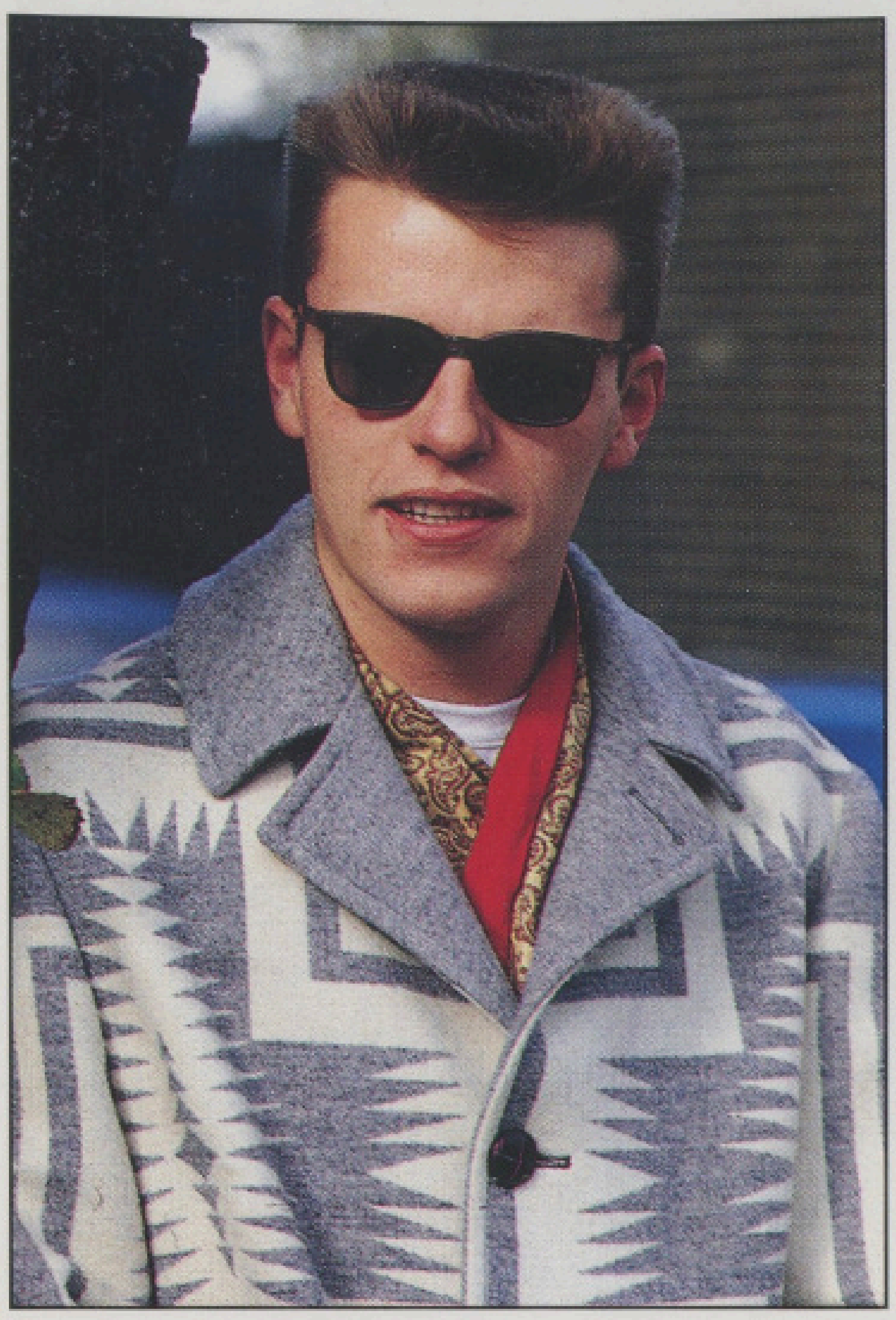
Gary Numan Born Gary Anthony James Webb 8/3/58. Pioneer of new-wave synthesiser music, his loveless robotic dirges gained him a huge following in the late '70s. His music remains essentially unchanged, though a little funkier. Has had many changes of image and a hair transplant. A qualified pilot, he admits that flying is his "first love", with music a poor second.

MADNESS



Madness Formerly ska band North London Invaders, Lee Thompson (sax), Carl Smyth (vocals/trumpet), Daniel "Woody" Woodgate (drums), Mike Foreman (guitar), Mark Bedford (bass) and Suggs (vocals) rose to fame as Madness with '79 Two-Tone craze. Highly successful nutty image and string of bouncy pop hits. Returned in '85 without keyboard player/musical director Mike Barson but with own studio, Zarjazz label and mellower songs and image. "We have changed," says Suggs. "We're a lot more sensitive now. It's a matter of realising that there's more to life than going to discos, showing off and being aggressive. You can direct your energy more positively."

SUGGS



Suggs Born Graham McPherson, 13/1/61. Thrown out of the band briefly because he couldn't sing. Identifies with John Cleese and Spike Milligan, and has a soft spot for nutters. Fond of *sushi* (Japanese raw fish), thinks Prince Charles is the best of the Royals and lives in North London with his wife Bette Bright and daughters Scarlet and Viva.

SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES

Siouxsie And The Banshees Since their notorious debut at London's 100 Club in 1976 when Siouxsie, Steve Severin, Sid Vicious and other members of their gang, The Bromley Contingent, bashed out a tortured 20 minute version of The Lords Prayer, this insular group have released eight albums. Budgie now occupies the drum stool but a continuing jinx on guitarists has seen first John McGeoch (now of The Armoury Show) and then Robert Smith (of The Cure) stepping in to help out; John Carruthers completes the current line-up. Misfortune has also dogged Siouxsie, with both vocal and knee problems causing havoc with tours, but their consistent low-key popularity remains undiminished.



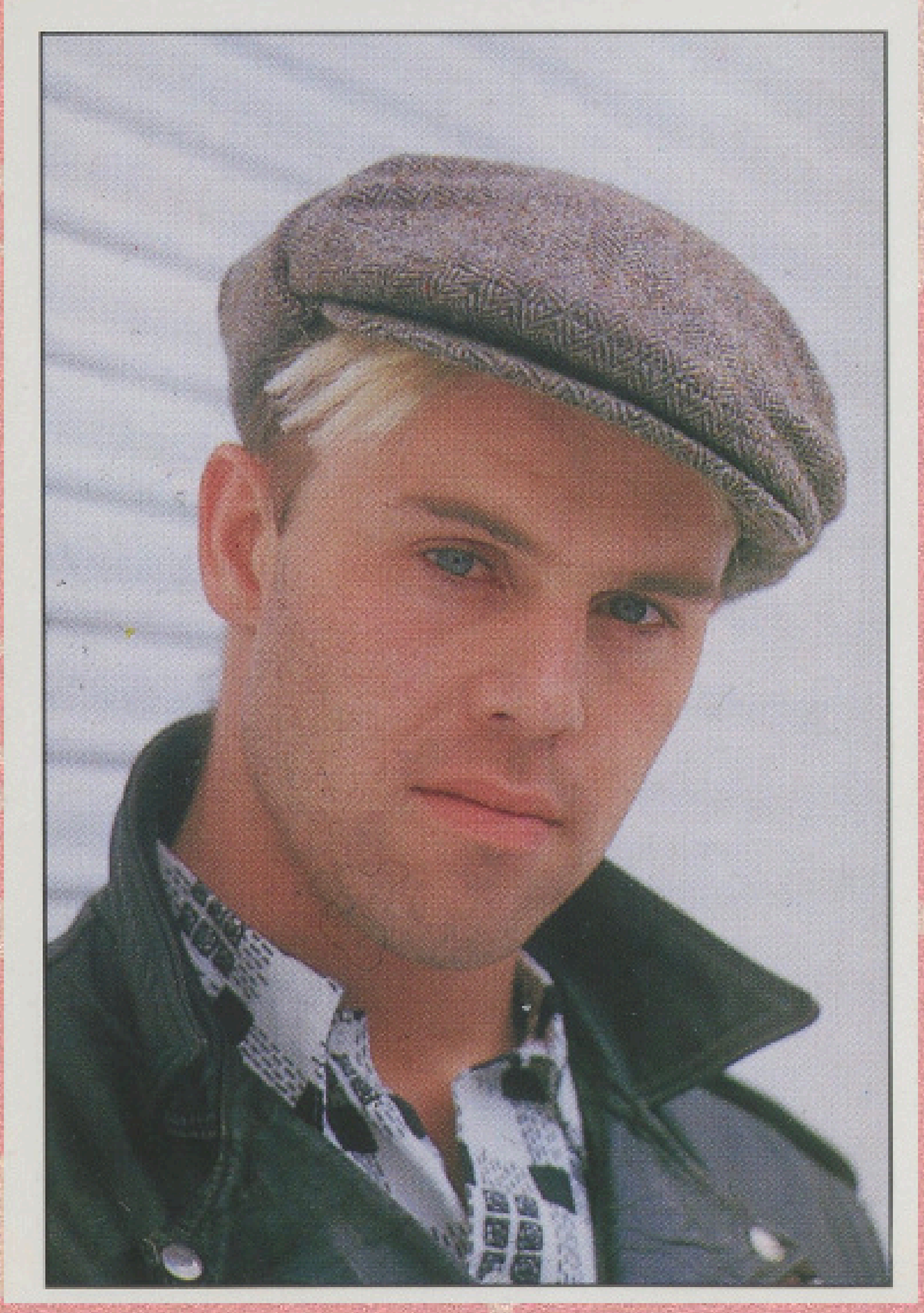
SIOUXSIE & THE BANSHEES/RICHARD HAUGHTON

SIOUXSIE



Siouxsie Born Susan Janet Ballion (27/5/57). The band's lyricist, she worked as a masseuse, waitress and barmaid in pre-Banshee days, and now lives on her own in North London. With Budgie (with whom she forms occasional voice/percussion duo The Creatures), she has adopted a peccary called Gregory at London's Regents Park zoo.

THOMAS DOLBY



Thomas Dolby Born Thomas Morgan Dolby Robertson in Cairo 14/10/58. Since last solo LP (''The Flat Earth''), multi-talented synth wizard has – amongst other things – produced albums by Prefab Sprout and Joni Mitchell, played with Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock and Howard Jones at American Grammy Awards, played at Live Aid backing David Bowie and written music for several films. Phew!



CHRISSIE HYNDE

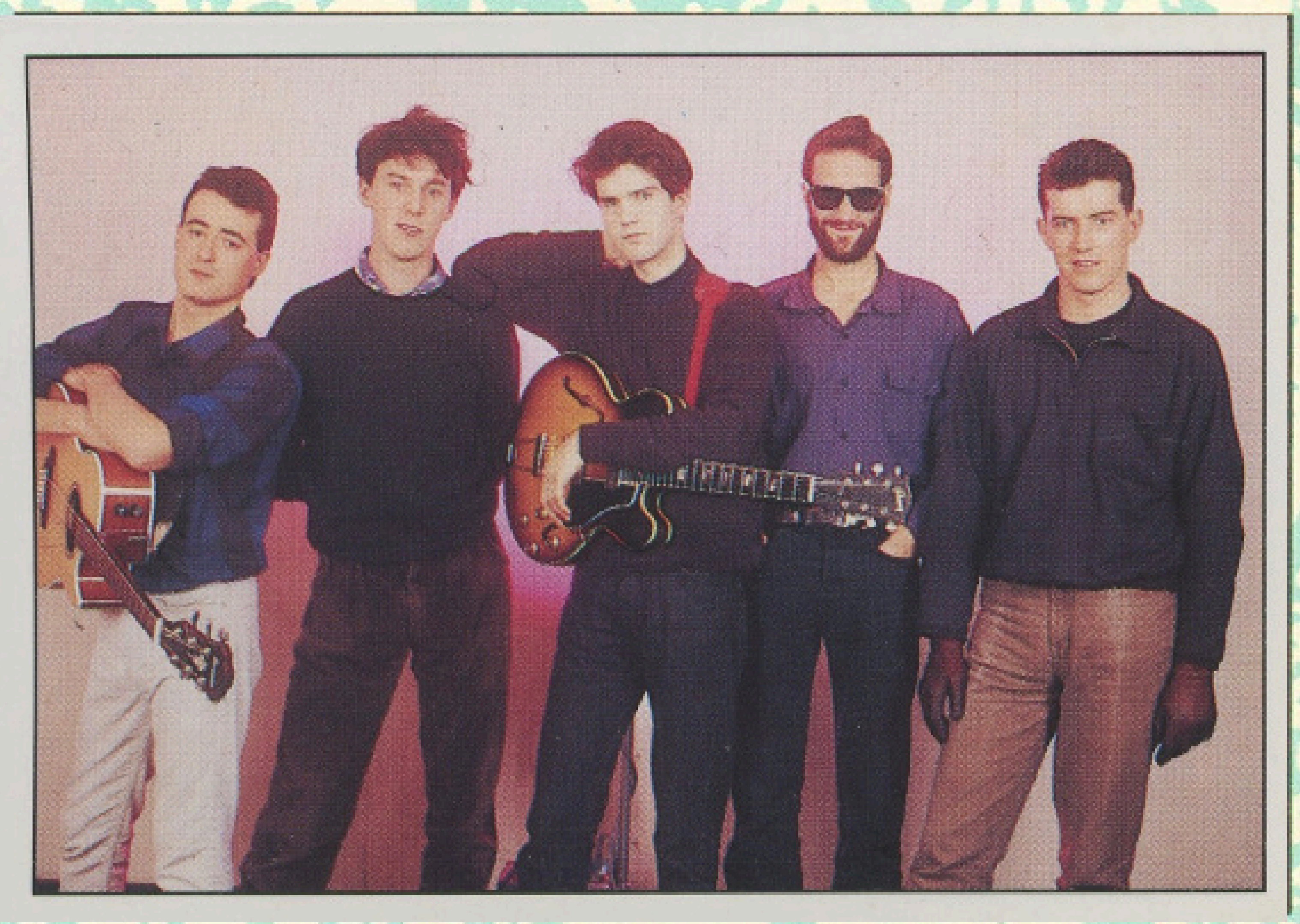
Chrissie Hynde Born 7/9/51 in Akron, Ohio. Came to Britain as pop journalist before forming The Pretenders. Has one child from stormy relationship with Ray Davies of The Kinks and now daughter Jasmine from marriage to Jim Kerr of Simple Minds. Quiet year in '85 though did share No. 1 hit with UB40 and ''I Got You Babe''. Described by Ali Campbell as ''sweet, charming and mysterious''.



GRACE JONES

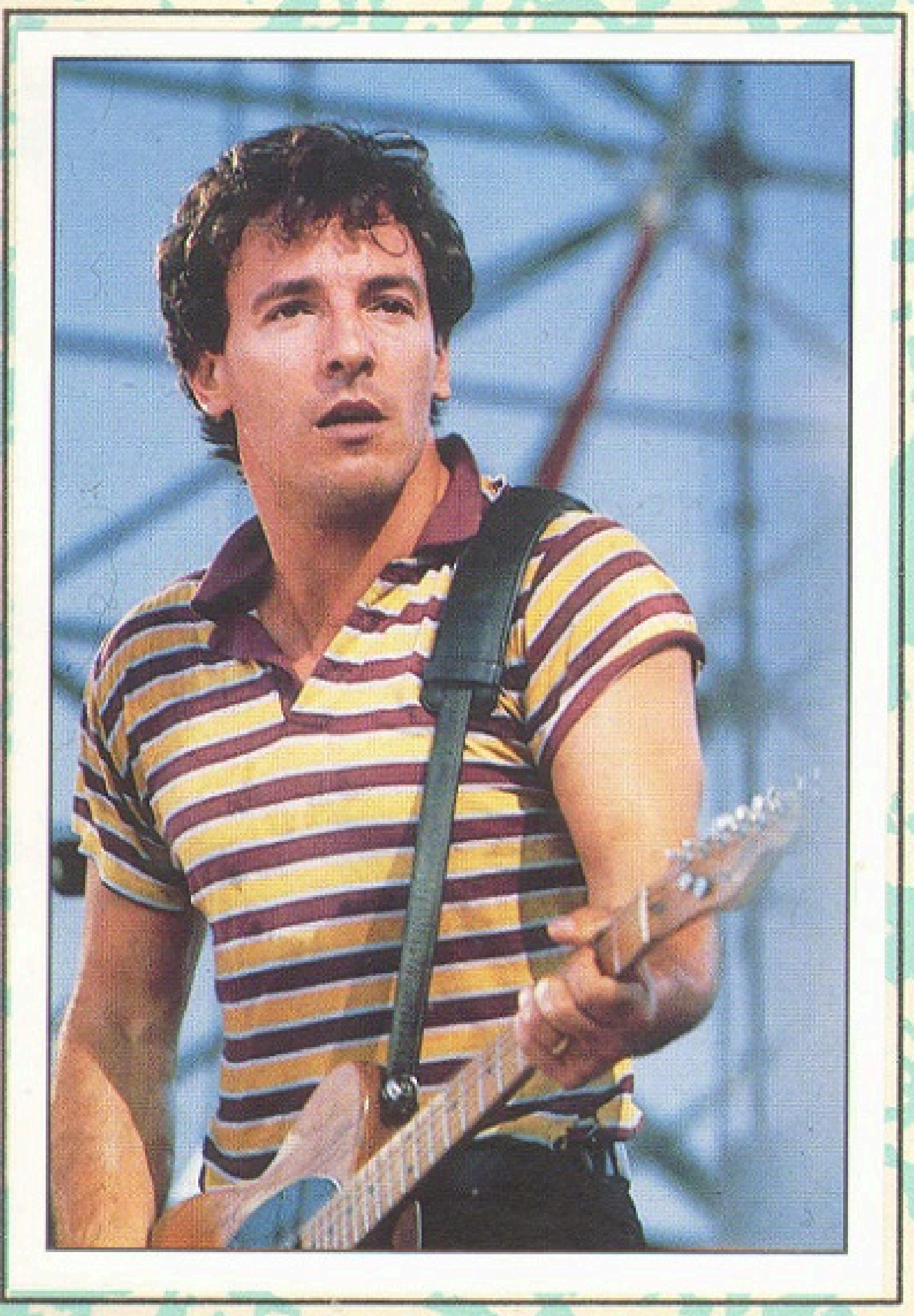
Grace Jones Born 19/5/52 in Jamaica. Modelled on the Paris catwalks before becoming a Franglais rapper and nightclub star with a tough image and distinctive visuals courtesy of boyfriend designer Jean Paul Goude. Returned to prominence in 1985 with Trevor Horn-produced "Slave To The Rhythm" and a villainess acting part in the Bond movie *A View To A Kill*.

LLOYD COLE AND THE COMMOTIONS



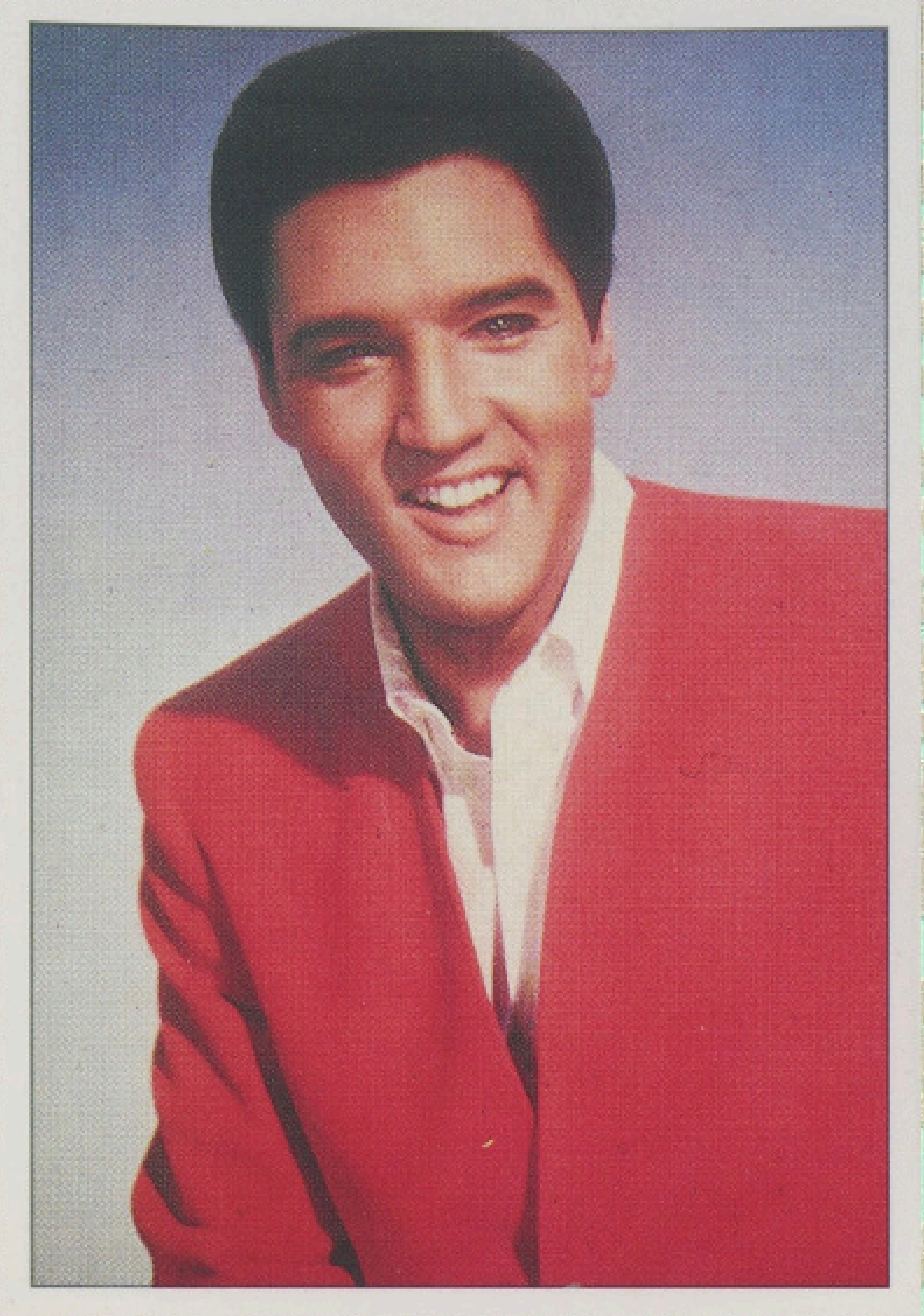
Lloyd Cole And The Commotions Lloyd was born in Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire (31/1/61), surviving a childhood of being bullied because of his Marc Bolan velvet trousers to study law at Glasgow University. There he formed jangly pop band The Commotions. A bit of a bookworm, Lloyd enjoys weaving rich tapestries of words and the occasional round of golf.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN



Bruce Springsteen Born 23/9/49 in Freehold, New Jersey, USA. Songs about life in small town America have given The Boss ("I'm jest a prisoner of rock 'n' roll") a huge following, mainly middle-aged, until his first major UK hit "Dancing in the Dark". Only seven albums in 12 years but his latest, "Born in the USA", rewarded him with five hit singles. Married model Julianne Phillips in May '85.

ELVIS PRESLEY



Elvis Presley Influenced whole generation by personifying rock 'n' roll in career spanning 150 singles, 200 albums and 33 films. Caused uproar in '50s with then outrageous hip-swivelling – odd contrast to own polite Southern manners and religious leanings. After years of decline in Las Vegas cabaret and sad personal life, died overweight and alone though still remembered simply as 'The King'.

THE BEATLES



The Beatles Once raw rockers, John, Paul, George and Ringo burst into the charts in '62 with "Love Me Do". Beatlemania ensued in huge fuss over "long" hair, good looks and ready Liverpool wit. Set new style by writing own songs and first British band to "break" America. Virtually directed youth culture for the next decade before splitting in 1970 after 19 albums and 17 No. 1 singles.

THE ROLLING STONES



The Rolling Stones Growing out of London rhythm and blues clubs, the Stones added sleaze, sexual innuendo and a general "bad boy" counterbalance to the toned-down, cleaned-up Beatles' chart domination. With only changes of guitarist, they've had consistent success from 1963 up till the apparently ageless Mick Jagger's duet with David Bowie on "Dancing In The Street".

SEX PISTOLS

Sex Pistols Untutored musicians whose raw energy and sneering irreverence towards both musical and social establishment was the essence of punk. Verbal abuse and violent audiences got them banned almost everywhere but, prompted by scheming manager Malcolm McLaren, still completely revitalised pop in mid-'70s inspiring current names as varied as Paul Weller, Scritti Politti and Billy Idol.

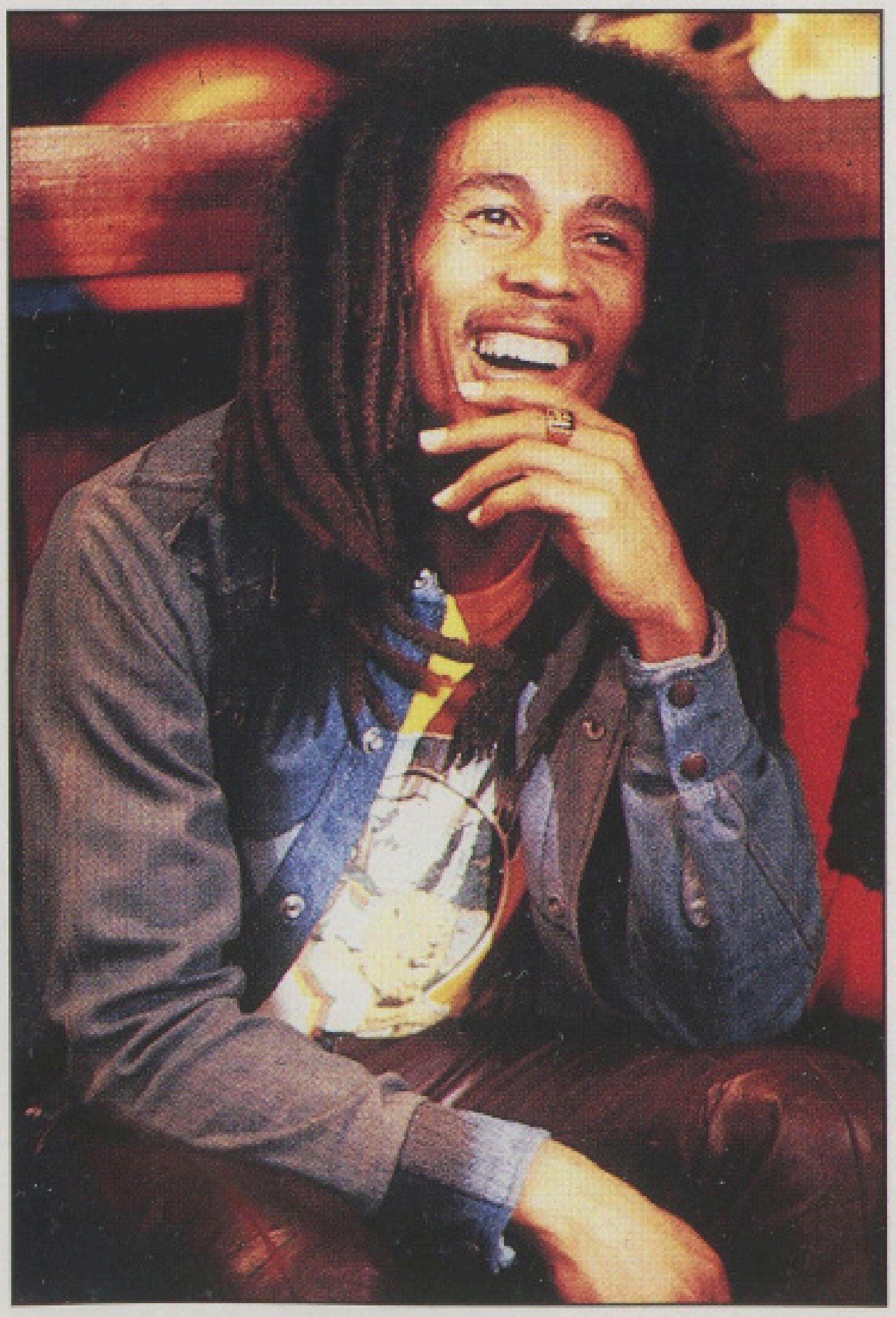


DAVID BOWIE



David Bowie After early experiments with pop/r&b bands, finally broke through with "Space Oddity" re-release. Since then, has been constantly innovative and influential, pioneering use of art and mime, bisexuality and glamour (pictured here as revolutionary Ziggy Stardust), white soul, moody electronics and, more recently, brighter modern dance records – all while constantly changing image.

BOB MARLEY



Bob Marley Born 6/4/45 in Jamaica of white father and black mother. Formed and single-mindedly rehearsed band The Wailers, setting new standards in lyrical content and musical arrangements for reggae. Rastafarian sage and spokesman (and keen footballer), he paved way for worldwide breakthrough and lasting influence of reggae without getting distracted by showbiz. Died of cancer in America in 1981.

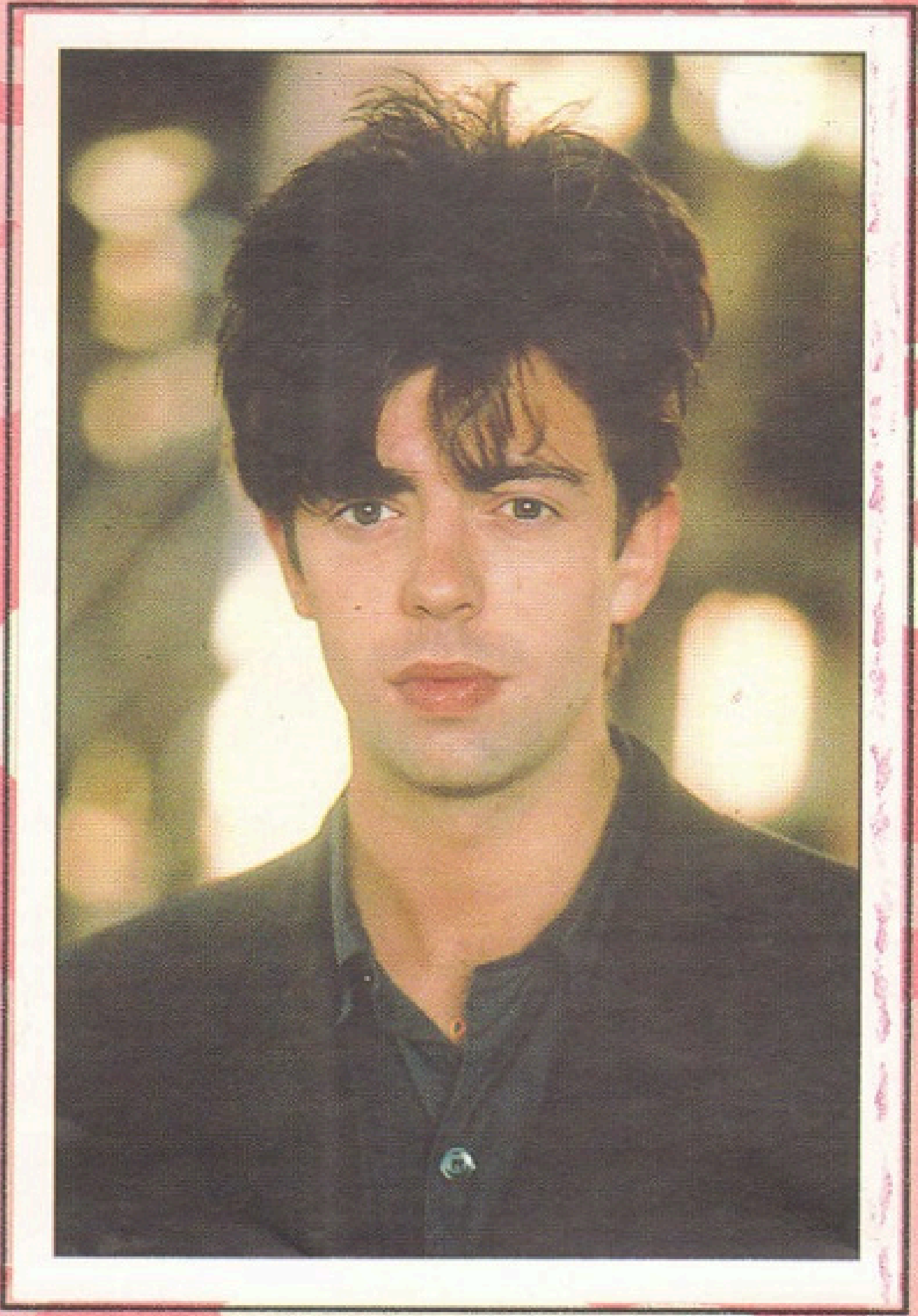
COLOR STRIPE INDICATES DIRECTION

ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN



■ **Echo And The Bunnymen** Formed out of late '70s Liverpool scene that included Pete Wylie, Julian Cope, Pete Burns and most of Frankie. Originally Ian McCulloch (vocals), Les Pattinson (bass), Will Sergeant (guitar) and a drum machine, Echo – soon replaced by drummer Pete de Freitas. Recently tried unsuccessfully to take a year off ("it was a crap idea," says Will.) Will slobbed around in bed watching TV; Pete slept, messed about with motorbikes, drank and turned into "a slob"; Les bought a boat called *Budgewar* and pondered philosophical questions like how long is a piece of string?; and Mac got a suntan in Ibiza. Have now wisely decided that working is a better idea.

IAN McCULLOCH



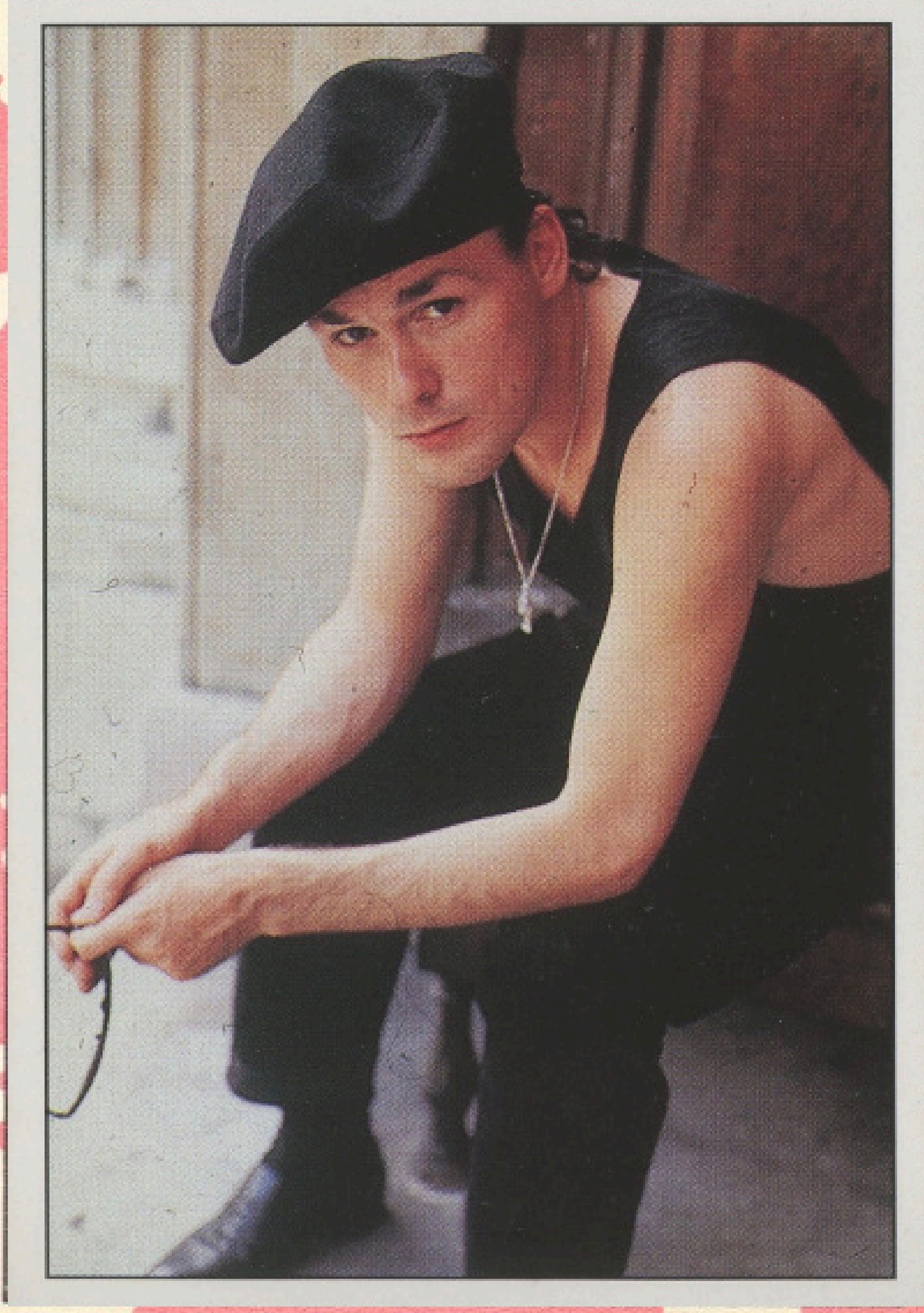
■ **Ian McCulloch** Born 5/5/59. A Bowie fanatic when younger, insisted on being called "Duke" at one time and still obsessed with "cool". Arrogant, awkward, often obnoxious and always stubborn, he's also almost blind without his contact lenses. Tried solo version of old classic "September Song" during Bunnymen separation in 1984, but sadly flopped. Married to Lorraine.

MICHAEL JACKSON



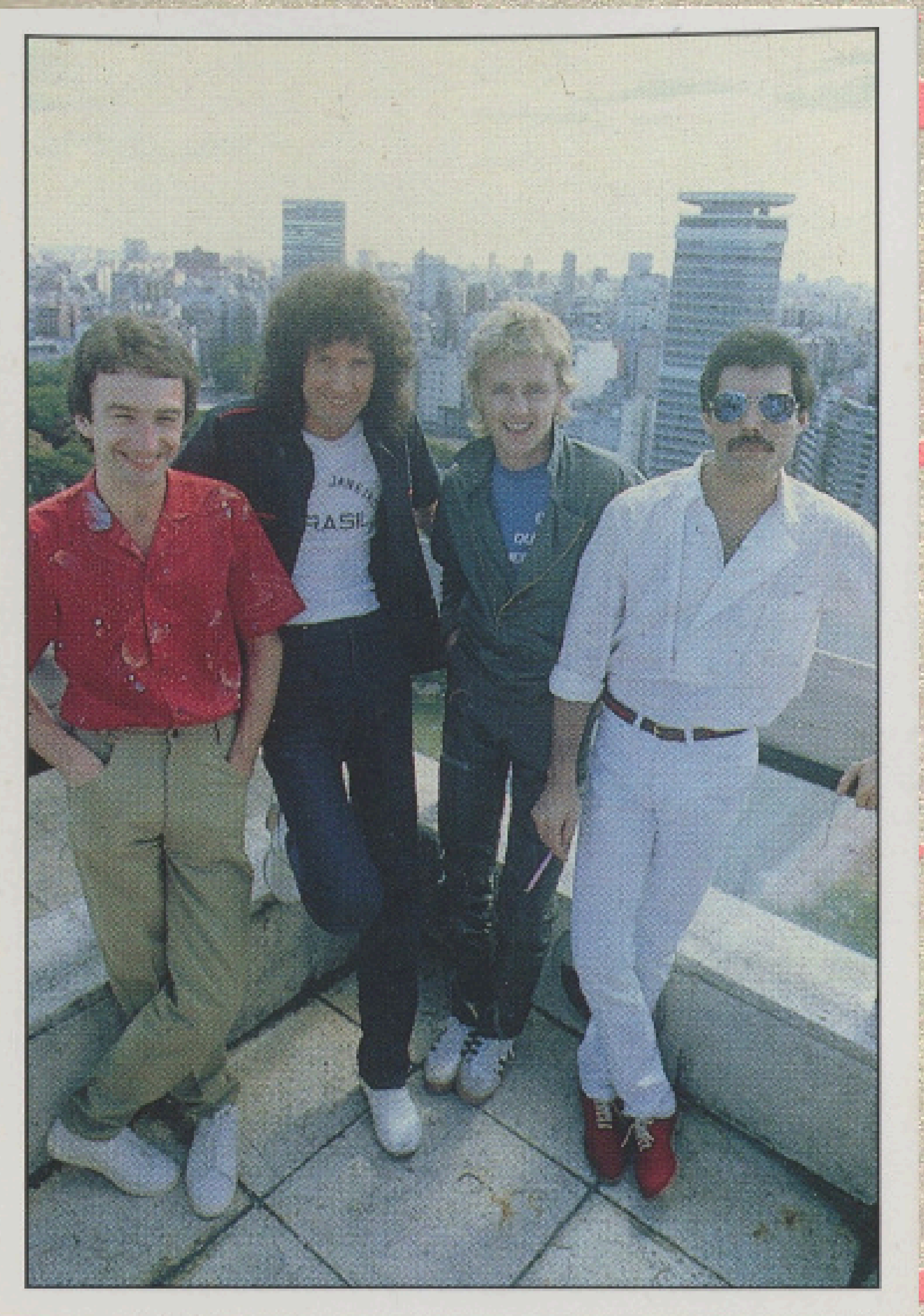
■ **Michael Jackson** Born 29/8/58. Began singing aged 8 in The Jackson Five – singing and dancing child entertainers from Gary, Indiana. Discovered for Motown by Gladys Knight (*not* Diana Ross) and had instant success. Survived teen stardom to mature into superb solo artist with phenomenally successful albums "Off The Wall" and "Thriller". Deeply religious, now a recluse in his California mansion, fasting and dancing till he drops. Prefers company of animals and loves world of fantasy – wears diamond studded glove on right hand only. Recently appeared briefly in Britain for unveiling of waxwork in Madame Tussauds, apparently doing door-to-door Jehovah's Witness missionary work while in London.

THE ASSOCIATES



■ **The Associates** Formed by ex-cabaret singer with incredible soaring voice, Billy Mackenzie, and instrumentalist Alan Rankine in 1980. After "Party Fears II", early 1982, had a couple of hits then split up, Mackenzie (main songwriter) keeping name. Notoriously lazy, he occasionally releases records but often prefers to disappear back to Scotland to the company of his mates and whippets.

QUEEN



■ **Queen** Formed in 1971 by fellow students Brian May, Roger Meddows-Taylor, John Deacon and Freddie Mercury. First *TOTP* appearance alongside The Wombles in 1974 with "Seven Seas Of Rhye". "Bohemian Rhapsody" with first-ever pop video stood at No. 1 for nine weeks in 1975. Gave one of the best performances at Live Aid and experienced a massive surge in popularity.

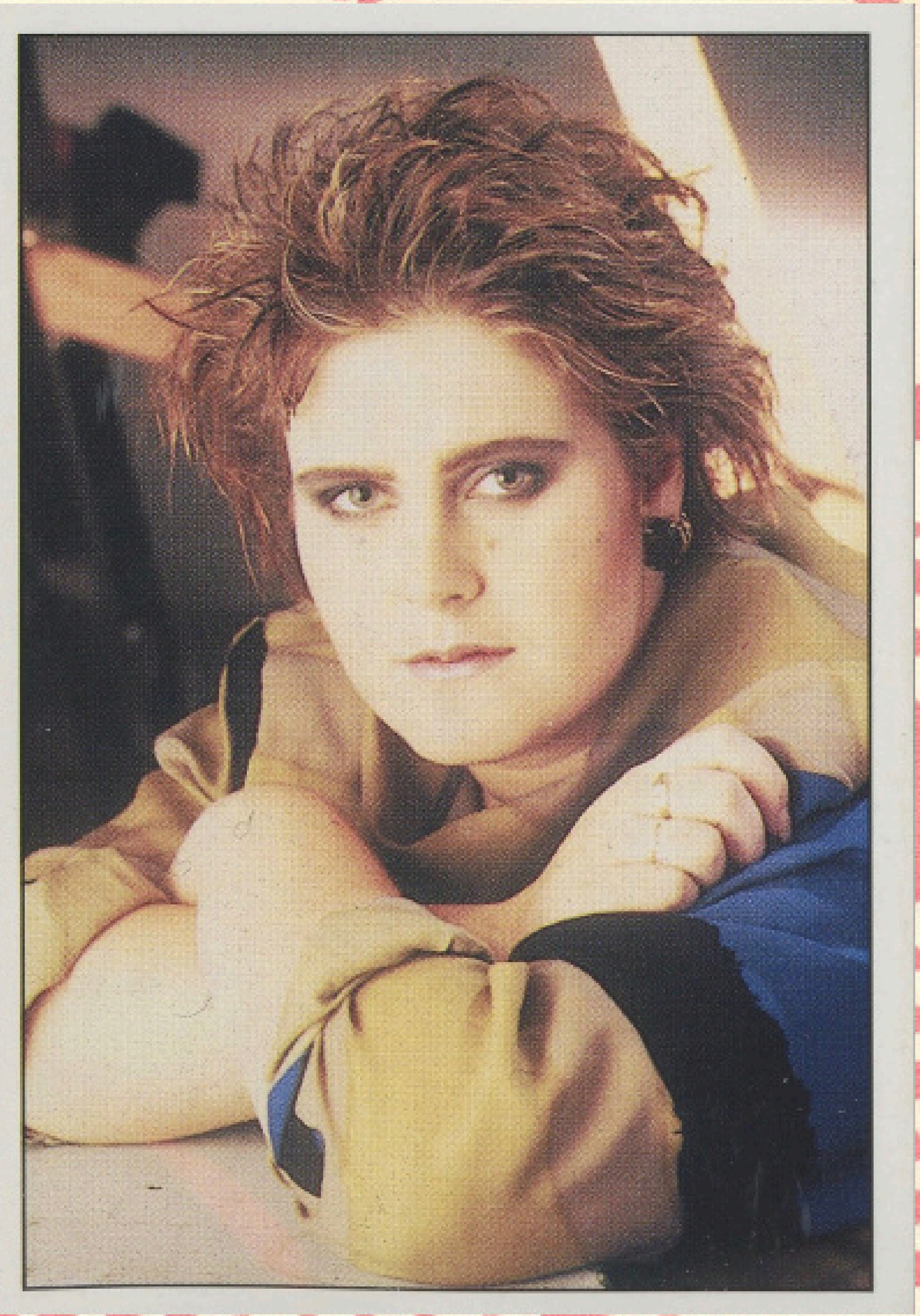
NORTH - RED
SOUTH - BLUE
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DAVID SYLVIAN



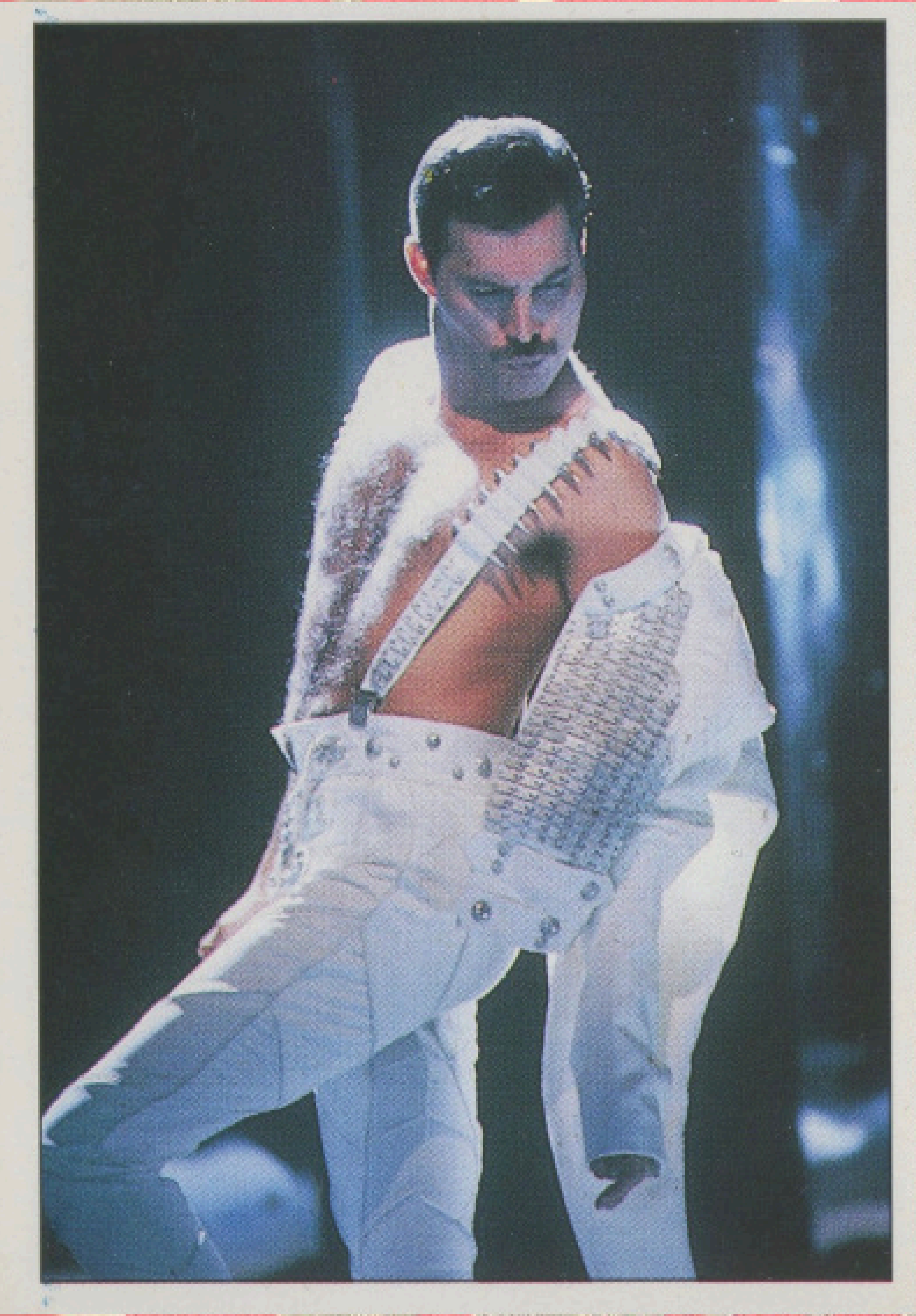
■ **David Sylvian** Born David Batt 23/2/58. Unhappy with pressures of stardom, Sylvian dissolved Japan in late '82 and made melancholy haunting "Brilliant Trees" LP, as well as producing exhibition and book *(Perspectives)* of his photography. Apparently unconcerned with commercial success, is currently experimenting in music and video with other avant garde artistes.

ALISON MOYET



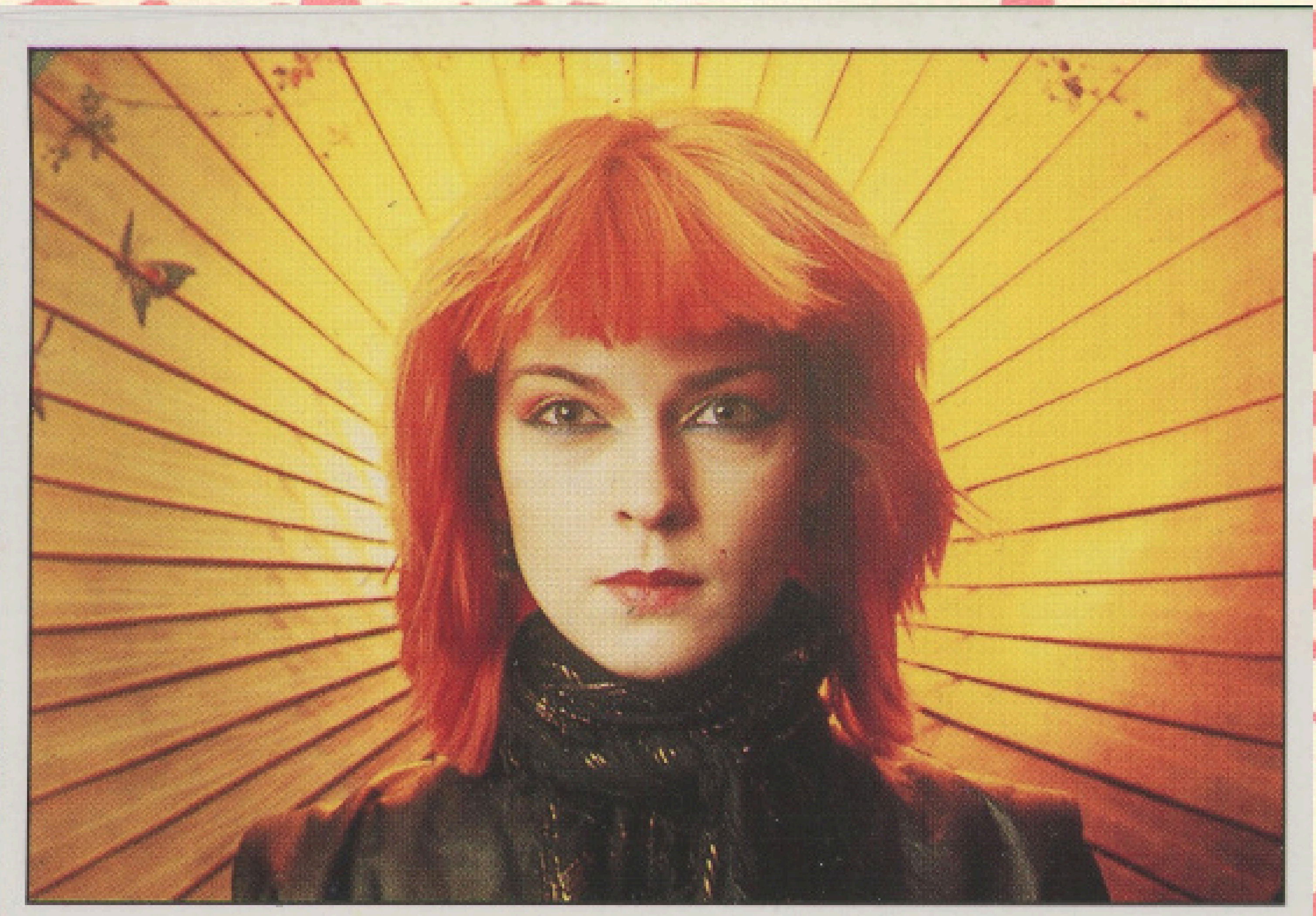
■ **Alison Moyet** Born 18/6/61. Sang in Southend blues and r&b bands before joining Vince Clarke (ex-Depeche Mode) to form Yazoo, then went on to launch solo career with highly successful "Alf" LP. Only one single in '85, a cover of the classic "That Ol' Devil Called Love". Lives in the country with husband Malcolm, baby Joe and six chickens.

FREDDIE MERCURY



■ **Freddie Mercury** Born Frederick Bulsara in Zanzibar, 5/9/46. Studied ballet and art in Ealing. Joined Queen as lead singer in 1971. Camp, theatrical, used to sport outrageous stage costumes yet claimed "I'm a mother figure to many people". Teamed up with Georgio Moroder to promote solo career. Still insecure despite success – "I think I'm going to go mad in a few years."

TOYAH



■ **Toyah** Born 18/5/58. Described herself as a fat and ugly teenager. Maintains strong acting links from tearaway youth, also appearing in films like *Jubilee* and *The Tempest*. Formed band in 1977 and built up loyal following, securing hits in early '80s. Still as visually striking as ever, but recent major relaunch notably unsuccessful.

BAND AID



BRIAN ARIS/DUNCAN PAUL ASSOC./BAND AID

Band Aid Brainchild of Bob Geldof (of The Boomtown Rats) who has worked for over a year raising money for famine relief in Africa. Initially inspired on 23/10/84 by Michael Buerk's horrific special report on the Ethiopian famine on *BBC 9 O'Clock News:* "I was outraged". Geldof phoned friend Midge Ure (from Ultravox) and together they wrote "Do They Know It's Christmas?" and persuaded impressive cast of stars to attend recording session on 25/11/84. Geldof hoped to raise £70,000. The record was in shops by 3/12/84, becoming the fastest selling British single ever, reaching No. 1 the next week. By January it had sold over 3 million (the biggest selling British single *ever*) and raised around £3 million. That total finally reached £8 million after worldwide release. When promoting American release before Christmas Geldof tried to inspire an American version to lukewarm response. Then calypso singer Harry Belafonte (after seeing Geldof complaining on US TV) got to work, enlisting Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie who wrote "We Are The World". USA For Africa record recorded on 22/1/85 in Los Angeles with cream of US talent – but not Prince. He was partying at a disco up the road though after subsequent criticism he agreed to donate some money and a song for the USA For Africa LP to the cause. USA For Africa raised $40 million in first 16 weeks.

Next came Live Aid. Despite problems over sparse black representation on bill (Prince, Michael Jackson and Diana Ross are assumed to have turned the opportunity down), concert took place simultaneously in London and Philadelphia on 13/7/85, broadcast by satellite to an estimated TV audience of 1.5 billion (the largest *ever*), and raising around £52 million.

Spending of Band Aid money (raised by "Do They Know It's Christmas?", Live Aid, Fashion Aid and other spin-offs, but not USA For Africa which was organised separately) is supervised by a voluntary team. Initially all money went on immediate aid but now only 20% goes to emergency famine relief, 20% for shipping and transport and 60% for longterm projects. "We have helped save their lives," explained Geldof. "Now we must give them a life worth living."

The Band Aid Line-Up: (Back row, left to right): Adam Clayton (U2), Phil Collins, Bob Geldof, Steve Norman (Spandau Ballet), Chris Cross (Ultravox), John Taylor (Duran Duran), Paul Young, Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet), Glenn Gregory (Heaven 17), Simon le Bon (Duran Duran), Simon Crowe (Boomtown Rats), Keren (Bananarama), Martin Kemp (Spandau Ballet).

(Middle row, left to right): Bono (U2), Paul Weller (Style Council), James Taylor (Kool & The Gang), Peter Blake (the artist who designed the sleeve), George Michael (Wham!), Midge Ure, Martyn Ware (Heaven 17), John Keeble and Gary Kemp (Spandau Ballet), Roger Taylor (Duran Duran), Marilyn, Sarah and Siobhan (Bananarama), Jody Watley (ex-Shalamar).

(Front row, left to right): Robert "Kool" Bell and Dennis Thomas (Kool & The Gang), Andy Taylor (Duran Duran), Jon Moss (Culture Club), Sting, Rick Parfitt (Status Quo), Nick Rhodes (Duran Duran), Johnny Fingers and Pete Briquette (Boomtown Rats), Francis Rossi (Status Quo).

Keep Glowing

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